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THE BUDGET AND THE MINISTRY.

THE first blush of satisfaction produced by the news that the "war ninepence" was abolished, was not very lasting. People read the debates, and considered our recent financial history, and fell into a state of doubt, soon succeeded by a state of disgust. First, of course, came the consideration of that growing expenditure to which we called attention last week. What is our position with regard to it? This is the important point, since all hopes of relief from direct or indirect taxation must rest on the possibility of our reducing the present increasing expenses of Government.

In the first place, let the reader dismiss the idea altogether, that, with the expenditure as it at present is, the income-tax will ever come off. The absurdity of *that* supposition rises prominent out of all these discussions. It has been proved, that, what with the war loans and the reductions announced, the revenue for 1858-9 must be below that for 1857-8 by five millions and a half. How, then, is the income-tax, in its old and (now that we are at peace) offensive form, to come off in 1860? It is out of the question. Besides, we are only supposing at present that things go on during the intervening years in an ordinary manner. An entirely new war may arise, under Lord Palmerston's auspices, in the interval. In that case, the income-tax will be up again, and the tea and sugar duties permanently "arrested" in their very gentle decline; for, as tea is said to be a slow poison,—so, relief from taxes on it seems to be a slow benefit.

Well. We shall be told that it is not Sir Cornwall Lewis's business to get the income-tax off by 1860,—that it is only his business to stave off the question three years more, and that meanwhile a reduction *is* achieved. But considerations like this will scarcely do for the country, which grows alarmed at the systematic increase above mentioned. The actual relief promised at present is not great. It leaves a heavy direct tax, and heavy indirect

taxes (just lightened enough to show that we are not absolutely at war with a great Power); but it leaves an uneasiness which is as bad as the burdens themselves, by leaving it probable that three years hence will find us as embarrassed as ever. The deficiencies—to provide for which the income-tax was renewed in our own time—are, according to the policy of Palmerston's Government, to become again parts of our system.

The fact is, that when the Budget was first introduced, the rough outward fact of the reductions misled people—they thought Government was acting with wonderful liberality. Mr. Gladstone—in that speech of last week, the ability of which will be long remembered—put the world right as to this. He reminded us that the war taxes on coffee, &c., lapsed by Act of Parliament, not by grace of Government; and he showed that, in money, the reductions boasted of did not amount to so much as was pretended. We shall not repeat figures already diffused over the kingdom, in illustration of this *exposé*; we shall confine ourselves to recalling the general result—viz., that Mr. Gladstone's analysis reduced the really voluntary and positive reductions of the Government, for 1857-8, from nearly twelve millions to something over three. Of course it is natural that journals, which (for reasons we never could understand) indissolubly connect the present Government with Liberalism, should pooh-pooh such criticism; but it is the criticism of a man whose experience is as great as his parts, and who inherits the really liberal financial views of our last great statesman. Mr. Gladstone's own Budget of 1853 produced a surplus (in spite of military expenditure) of three millions; and his object in rigidly investigating the pretensions of the present one, has been to recall the necessity of fulfilling the promises then virtually made to the people.

There are reasons for believing that Government showed this spending turn, under the idea that the public was itself in the old reckless war temper. The



THE LUND HILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION: RESCUING THE SURVIVORS.—(SEE PAGE 131.)



MINERS' COTTAGES, LUND HILL COLLIERY: RELATIVES RUSHING TO THE SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION.—(SEE PAGE 131.)

last few years notoriously changed the *morale* of the country on this subject, and made us from a nation rather inclined to be curmudgeons, a nation perfectly indifferent to expense. But the war having ceased, this has ceased too. The Smithfield meetings show us the reaction from plentiful employment in a very ugly shape; and it may safely be affirmed of the present tone of English opinion, that it is decidedly and markedly economical.

Such being the state of things, the country naturally looks to a reduction of the estimates in committee, and to some provision for the abolition of the income-tax at a definite period, even if (as we fancy) 1860 be too near a date. And though the Gladstone-Disraeli movement was a failure, as far as it contemplated a formal condemnation of the Government, still it has done good; it has awakened the world to the true character of the Budget—it has everywhere stimulated the determination of people to insist on economy; and has thus, in its way, had some of the best effects of a "demonstration." The division of last Monday was such an one as has frequently occurred of late years—one not involving a moral and general approval of a Government, but still providing that the Government shall not have to resign during a period of party confusion and complication. Men voted for the Ministers, though they did not like the Budget. Government had some of its enemies on its side for the occasion. It was the old story—"Party" is disorganised; so practical people support existing arrangements for fear of worse. Lord John Russell showed no cordial approval of the Budget; but had he condemned it, what would have been the result? Not an administration headed by Lord John. The whole affair showed that it is quite uncertain still what forms of coherence our shifting masses of party will yet assume; and that, meanwhile, the practical ruler actually in place is lord of the situation. Mr. Gladstone must be content with having given a stimulus to the cry for retrenchment and peace expenditure. So much he has achieved; but the country has not yet forgiven him his dubious part in the latter year of the war, and we cannot assure him of much sympathy in his parliamentary catastrophe. We do not point this out in a spirit of hostility, but simply because we feel sure that it enters as an element into the public feeling on this occasion.

It is the fashion to underrate "Party," and, for ourselves, we can see excellent reasons for its being just now at a discount; but still it is of great use to the public as an instrument, and we are glad to see Government get a thorough "warning" by its means so early in the session. Let us hope that we shall see some good effects of this vigorous stir in the political world, as our financial affairs progress through Parliament.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE *bauf gras* has been the most prominent object of interest in Paris during the week. On Sunday the *bauf* commenced his peregrinations through the streets of the capital, followed by the usual procession, which yearly becomes more ragged and ridiculous. The gentlemen of the procession had evidently not washed themselves since last year's ceremony; the ladies presented an unpalatable compound of immense moral courage and intense personal ugliness. The English alliance was represented in the person of a gentleman of large proportions, who, having obtained celebrity in his native isle as the "Norfolk Giant," now forms the chief attraction at the "Café du Grant," on the Boulevards. The fat beavers were very fat, their horns were glib, and the weather was fine. Live the *bauf gras*!

The "Indépendance" ventilates a rumour that the Emperor and Empress will be crowned at Rheims in the month of August.

It is announced that a commission is about to be appointed to choose a position to which to transfer the prisoners at Cayenne. Several places have been mentioned. One is New Caledonia, and the other Algeria. Another idea suggested is to take possession of the Zephyrine Islands, opposite the coast of Africa, and which have the advantage of being detached from the continent or coast of Algeria.

The French Legislative Assembly has presented Marshal Pelissier, Duke of Malakoff, an annual donation of 100,000*fr.* The title is to be hereditary to his male issue in a direct line, by rank of primogeniture, and will revert to the State in event of extinction. The donation will be inalienable, and cannot be subject to seizure.

Doubts have been thrown upon the visit of the Emperor of Russia to the Tuileries; but if we may believe the latest court gossip, the Empress is at this moment personally superintending the arrangements for the Czar's comfort in the apartments destined for his reception at the Tuileries.

SPAIN.

ESPARTERO has resigned his position as a senator, "for reasons which," as he says in a letter to the Queen, "no one will understand better than her Majesty."

From Seville we have an account of a strange attempt to create disturbances. Four armed men proceeded to the church of La Girarda, and summoned the bell-ringers to ring the tocsin; the ringers refused, and one of them rushed out and gave an alarm to the authorities. On this the men took to flight, but two of them were arrested. On investigation, the authorities ascertained that a conspiracy existed for creating an insurrection, and that the ringing of the tocsin was to have been the signal for a rising; they also succeeded in seizing seven arrobas (175*lbs.* English) of gunpowder at half a league from Seville.

A Carlist chief, Colonel Santiago, had been arrested at Tortosa for having conveyed messages from Cabrera, who is in England, to the heads of the Carlist party in that place and neighbourhood.

The quarrel with Mexico seems to have come to a head. M. Pidal, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, has addressed a circular to the diplomatic representatives of Spain at foreign Courts, directing them to inform the respective Courts to which they are accredited, that the Spanish *chargé d'affaires* at Mexico has been instructed to demand a signal reparation and a pecuniary indemnity for the injuries and affronts which Spanish subjects have to endure in Mexico. The note adds that sufficient forces have already been sent out to protect those Spaniards who cannot at present leave the Mexican territory, and more energetic measures will be taken, if necessary, to enforce the demand.

AUSTRIA.

THE Austrian amnesty is to be extended, not merely to those who are actually in prison for having committed political offences, but likewise to those who have fled. However, the latter are to ask for permission to return, and they have to furnish evidence that they have not taken part in revolutionary agitations during their sojourn abroad.

It appears that a Hungarian committee has been appointed to receive the Emperor on his visit to Hungary. Among them are Prince Paul Esterhazy, Counts Bela Wenckheim, Emmanuel Andrássy, John Czizaky, and Felix Zichy. On the 8th, the committee waited on the Archduke Albrecht, and informed him that the nobles would do all in their power to render the sojourn of their Majesties in Hungary agreeable, but that they could not answer for any enthusiasm on the part of the nation. Count Wenckheim is said to have observed that the Hungarians still deplored the loss of the constitution on which they and their forefathers had possessed for 800 years. Count Czizaky remarked that "enthusiasm" was not to be expected from a people which was not permitted to use its mother-tongue when it had to address the authorities in writing. Another member of the committee remarked that the country was inundated with foreign employes, who knew as little of the real state of the country as they did of the language of its inhabitants.

It is said that an extremely energetic note has been addressed by Count

Buol to the Sardinian Government. The Austrian Minister complains bitterly of the excessive license of the press.

The Emperor and Empress are expected to arrive in Vienna about the 15th of March.

RUSSIA.

THE Grand Duchy of Finland is in a state of distress bordering upon actual famine. Large subscriptions, headed by the Emperor and Empress, have been opened for the relief of the people.

According to a correspondent of the "Morning Post," there is every reason to suppose that Russia has offered assistance to China.

The Russian authorities have quitted Bolgrad, and surrendered the town to the Commissioners sent from Jassy by the Moldavian Government.

ITALY.

MELANCHOLY reports of the condition of Naples continue to be received. Domiciliary visits are frequent; arrests are continually being made; and the Government is said to resort to some milder kinds of torture to extract confessions from those arrested. It has been said that since the 12th of January not fewer than 7,000 to 8,000 provincials have either been expelled from, or have left, the city. The King is still at Caserta, and lives more secluded than ever.

An investiture of the Order of the Bath was held at Turin, on the 17th inst., by Sir James Hudson, K.C.B. The insignia of the order was conferred on the following officers, who had been in the Crimea:—Generals John Durando and Trotti, to be Knight Commanders; Colonel Pettiti, Lieut.-Colonel De la Revere, Major Govone, and Captain di Negro, R.N., to be Knight Companions. All the Sardinian Ministers of State, the Duke de Grammont, French Ambassador, and other notabilities, were present.

The Chamber of Deputies at Turin, in its sitting on the 19th, voted the first article of a bill for abolishing the restrictions laid on the free exercise of certain professions, such as those of attorney, surveyor, chemist, draper, &c., the number of whom is fixed, thus creating a privilege for a limited number of persons. The article voted provides that they are to receive an indemnity from the state for the loss of their vested rights, and that henceforward the exercise of these professions is to be open to every one.

GREECE.

THE steam-frigates which were sent to bring back the French corps of occupation in Greece, left the Piræus on the 11th inst.

The Senate has rejected the financial arrangement proposed by England and France.

TURKEY.

THE Government is engaged on the question of applying the system of recruiting to the non-Musulman population.

Rifat Pacha is dead. He leaves a fortune of 25,000,000 piastres.

Admiral Lyons has officially announced his speedy departure. Two vessels have already left for Malta.

PERSIA.

LATE advices from Paris report that the differences between England and Persia are virtually settled.

A second disembarkation of Russian troops at Balfruck on the Caspian Sea, is reported; it is added that munitions of war have been forwarded to Teheran by the Russians.

Russia, in conjunction with Persia, is projecting the establishment of a railway from Tiflis to Teheran.

Intelligence from Bushire to the 17th of January, states that the troops were still un molested by the enemy. An attack had been made by detachments of cavalry and horse artillery on a depot of Persian stores and ammunition twenty-two miles from the camp, and the object attained without loss.

A treaty of amity and commerce concluded at Teheran between France and Persia has just been published. The treaty is for an unlimited period. The ministers of the high contracting Powers at the respective courts are to enjoy the same privileges and immunities as those of the most favoured nations. The subjects of the two countries will receive in either territory every protection, and are allowed to carry on business therein. Merchandise imported or exported by the subjects of the two countries, will only be subject to the duties imposed upon that of the most favoured nation. Disputes arising in Persia between French subjects and natives will be referred to the French Consul, to be settled according to French laws. Disputes arising in France between Persians and French subjects or foreigners, will be settled according to the mode adopted towards the subjects of other foreign countries. Criminal matters will be tried in France or in Persia according to the mode adopted towards the subjects of the most favoured nations. Each Government will have the power of naming three consuls—those of France will reside at Teheran, Bender-Bushire, and at Tauris; and those of Persia at Paris, Marseilles, and the Ile de la Réunion.

CHINA.

THERE is no change in the position of affairs in China.

The Chinese made an unsuccessful attempt to retake Tee-Totum Fort.

The Europeans on board the steamer *Thistle*, in all eleven persons, were treacherously murdered by "braves" in disguise among the native passengers. The steamer was carried off, and abandoned after being dismantled.

The Government of Hong Kong has increased the police force, and taken precautionary measures against incendiarism.

The "Pays," publishing what it calls private correspondence from China, announces a fact of some interest. On January 3, Mandarin Syho, Governor of Shanghai, died suddenly. This circumstance produced a certain degree of fermentation among the lower and fanatical part of the population, who accused the Europeans of having murdered him. For the space of two days serious troubles were apprehended, but the attitude of the French and English ships of war, and the energy of the commandant of the Tartar troops, who united his efforts with theirs, maintained tranquillity. At the date of the last accounts the town was perfectly quiet.

AMERICA.

THE "New York Herald" of Feb. 6, makes the following statement about the secret proceedings in the United States Senate at Washington, with regard to the proposed Central American treaty with England:—"The Dallas-Clarendon treaty upon Central American affairs, after a protracted and animated debate in secret session, was, by a vote of 33 to 8, recommended to the Committee on Foreign Relations, with a view to certain amendments. This reference also appears to be generally interpreted as the virtual defeat of the treaty; but it is quite possible that, without any definite action of the Senate in the interim, the treaty may go over to the 4th of March, and thus become subject to the direct official influence, one way or the other, of the new administration."

The National Theatre at Washington was destroyed by fire in the afternoon of the 6th inst., and only the bare walls remained.

A sudden thaw, following upon most severe frost and heavy falls of snow, has swollen all the rivers to destructive floods, and most disastrous reports are arriving from the interior.

Senator Sumner is determined to take his seat in Congress during the present session. This is contrary to the advice of his physicians; but his political friends are not disposed to dissuade him from it.

Official accounts from the Philippine Islands state that 15,000 houses were destroyed by a hurricane. Some damage was also done at Manila.

Walker, as far as can be judged, appears to be in a critical position in Nicaragua. He is said to be blockaded by the enemy in a little town opposite the island of Omotepe. He has only five hundred men, is destitute of provisions, and has no means of obtaining them now that the river and lake steamers have been captured. Meanwhile, some few recruits continue to go out to him; but others have been arrested and held to bail by the United States Federal authorities.

The republics of Chili, Peru, and Ecuador, have formed a treaty of alliance, or a kind of confederation, for internal improvements and external defence against filibusterism.

AUSTRALIA.

THE official opening of the new Parliament took place on the 25th of November. The day was observed as a general holiday, the streets were

decorated with flags, and the roofs and windows of the houses were crowded with people. The pathways were lined with military and police. As his Excellency the Governor left his house trumpets sounded, and a salute of nineteen guns was fired. The Parliament House was densely packed, and presented a striking effect.

Dr. Palmer, the former Speaker of the Legislative Council, has been re-elected to that position. Dr. F. Murphy has been elected Speaker of the Assembly.

His Excellency, in his address, expressed the satisfaction he felt at having the opportunity of congratulating the Assembly upon the attainment of the object—self-government—for which the country had struggled for many years. It would now be their constant duty to watch the operation, and to amend the defects, of the fundamental law from which they derived their existence and powers. His Excellency then adverted to the affairs to which the attention of the Assembly should be directed, among which were the introduction of competitive examination for the Civil Service; the inequality of the franchise; the sale and occupation of the Crown lands; the promotion of railways, telegraphs, the better lighting of the towns, and works of a similar nature; a comprehensive scheme of public instruction, &c.; and other measures calculated to improve the administration and ameliorate the conditions of society in Australia. His Excellency also stated that he should recommend them to appropriate considerable sums for the purposes of immigration, in order to obtain a steady stream of assisted immigration, at a cost to the public treasury decreasing from year to year. He should propose the discontinuance of the services of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, and the establishment of a distinct agency for Victoria in the United Kingdom.

His Excellency's address met with considerable adverse criticism, which did not, however, lead to any result.

A motion to open the proceedings in the Lower House with prayer was negatived by a majority of two, notwithstanding several petitions in favour of the measure.

The Lower Assembly had named a select committee for the purpose of preparing an address to her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, congratulating her Majesty on the restoration of peace.

THE MURDER OF DR. BURDELL AT NEW YORK.

THE mystery that surrounds this case baffles all attempts to penetrate it, and very little more is really known than at the very beginning of the investigation. Nothing has been proved, but a strong motive on the part of the woman Cunningham and the lodger Eckel, supposed to be her lover. The woman's daughter has deposed clearly that her mother was married privately to Burdell in October last, and that she was present as witness. It is clear that Burdell lived in dread of the whole family, and on the very day before the murder asked a friend to spend the night with him, as he was afraid something would happen. The evidence that Burdell was persecuted is tolerably strong, though not decisive, while all his conduct subsequently is wholly at variance with the supposition that he had married her. She executed legal documents and agreements with him in her own name, which he took as carefully as if she had been a stranger, though they must have been utterly useless if she was his wife; and he was a very sharp man of business. One of these documents was an agreement, made only three weeks before, to give up the tenancy of the house in May. On the day after the murder he was to have granted a lease to other persons, and she knew the fact. This is supposed to have hastened the completion of the plot; and not only are there some awkward defects in the evidence, but the inquiry has been conducted with an imbecility perfectly incredible. The disgust of the public at the levity of the coroner during the first two days of the inquest put a stop to indecent jokes which he then indulged, and he allowed the after examinations to be conducted by two or three professional men; but this of itself caused confusion. There was no method in the proceedings; and the faint clues that might have been followed up will now perhaps never be recovered. The coroner put the whole family into close confinement as witnesses. As such they applied for a writ of habeas corpus, in the return to which the specified Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham as being detained as accomplices, charged with the murder. By order of the Superior Court all the witnesses, except these two, were released; but these, who were the chief witnesses, being changed into principals, of course, immediately took other ground; and on being brought up for examination, refused to answer any questions. The burden will most likely be fatal to the case. The indignation excited by this mismanagement is very great, but very useless except as a lesson for the future.

IRELAND.

PAUPERISM IN IRELAND.—On the first Saturday of January, 1857, the total number of paupers receiving relief in unions of Ireland amounted to 56,094 (55,183 indoors, against 73,083 in January, 1856, equivalent to a decrease of 16,989, or 23.3 per cent. The population in 1851 was 6,552,035. The total expenditure for Poor Law paupers in the year ended September 29th, 1856, amounted to the sum of £576,160, against £485,259 in 1855, equivalent to a decrease of £190,909. In the first year £558,500 was expended for maintenance and clothing, £2,198 for out-relief, and £4,170 for emigration expenses.

DARING ARREST.—A warrant had been out since last September against John Fitzpatrick, of the slate quarries, Kilkenny, for an assault on a deaf and dumb girl; and he had ever since baffled the police. However, Constable Crowe lately learned that the delinquent was at work in his father's quarry. This quarry is on an eminence, from which all approaches are visible for a considerable distance, so that no policeman could come near the spot unobserved, and therefore Fitzpatrick considered himself safe. The constable sent two men in plain clothes by a circuitous route, to place themselves at a given point on the Tipperary side of the quarry—and two more, also in disguise, by another devious path, to go round by the Kilkenny side of the quarry; while he himself, with two men in uniform, fully armed, took a more direct road. The moment the latter party came in view an alarm was given by a woman, posted for the purpose, on which Fitzpatrick started off from the midst of about 160 of his comrades, pursued by the police. He soon left all behind except Sub-Constable Burke, between whom and the outlaw the race now lay, both taking their forces in sporting style, for a run of about two miles across a "stiff country." After a time Burke was closing on his man, who, like a padded fox, made one desperate effort to escape by leaping into the river with a view to cross it; however, Burke also unhesitatingly sprang in, seized and secured his object, deep-deep in water, and detained him until the rest of the party came up.

REMOVED ABOLITION OF THE IRISH VICEROYALTY.—At the Lord Mayor's inaugural banquet, last week, Lord Carlisle thus referred to a rumour of the abolition of the Irish Viceroyalty:—"There is said his Excellency, one other motive slightly more personal to myself which causes me eagerly to appreciate the kindness with which you have received me this evening, for I perceive that there are quarters from which I, in common, indeed, with all the future Lords-Lieutenant of Ireland, have been threatened with a deposition from my present viceregal seat. I certainly have received no official intimation on that subject. Our gracious Sovereign has not made me privy to any intention of depriving me of that delegated authority which I so unworthily wield in her name; and I cannot pretend to say that I have read my doom in the countenances or demeanour of the Irish people, or even in that of this brilliant assembly; and therefore we will only conclude that the question, in parliamentary parlance, has been indefinitely adjourned."

CAN A MAN MARRY HIMSELF?—On the 29th of November, 1831, the Rev. Samuel Beamish, of Cork, being then in holy orders, sent to the house of a milliner, named Ann Lyons, in the City of Cork, and there, in a place where he believed there was no witness, performed a ceremony of marriage between himself and a young woman named Isabella Frazer. The ceremony was that prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer; the Rev. Mr. Beamish officiating for himself. No clergyman was present at the performance of the ceremony except the Rev. Mr. Beamish himself, nor was there, in fact, any one present as a formal witness; but the performance of the ceremony was witnessed by a female named Catherine Coffey, who, without the knowledge of the contracting parties, and solely from curiosity, saw it going on through a window from an adjoining back yard, though she did not hear what was said by either party. Isabella Frazer gave birth to a son in 1841; and in 1844 the Rev. S. Beamish died intestate. It was then contended by a brother of the Rev. Gentleman that the marriage was invalid, and that the boy was therefore illegitimate and could not succeed to his father's property. This question has been occupying the attention of the Irish law courts for the last two years; but it has been at length and finally decided that the marriage was valid.

SCOTLAND.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.—The shop of Mrs. Lennie, jeweller, Princes Street, Edinburgh, was entered from the terrace over the windows, early on Saturday morning, and the whole frontage being exterior to the building itself, the burglars obtained access by simply tearing up the zinc, sawing through the wood, and breaking the lath and plaster. Descending to the shop, they carried off a large quantity of jewellery, valued at from £1,300 to £1,500.

THE FREEHOLD MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.—A movement has been commencing in Scotland, (originating with the Rev. Dr. Begg, of Edinburgh, with a view to obtaining an Act of Parliament for extending the forty shillings freehold qualification to the Scottish towns and counties. The feeling of the public has declared itself already very strongly in its favour.

THE PROVINCES.

A SWINDLE AT HUDDERSFIELD.—A successful swindle was played off at the Huddersfield Theatre one evening last week. It had been extensively advertised, and Henry Russell would give his entertainment "The Far West," at the theatre, and a large audience collected there. As, however, much time passed without the business becoming visible, the people began to be impatient, and created a disturbance. Upon this the money-taker requested a woman to take his place, and meanwhile walked off, taking the cash-box with him, and was seen no more. When this became known to his dupes they became enraged, broke the doors into the scenes, and some even tried to set fire to the gallery. The police were called in, and succeeded in clearing the place after the gas had been twice extinguished.

IN AID OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.—A meeting of the merchants of Liverpool was held in the rooms of the African Association, Exchange Buildings, last week. The Mayor of Liverpool in the chair—for the purpose of aiding to raise a fund to make adequate provision for Dr. Livingstone, the celebrated African explorer, and his wife and family. The Mayor said he had received a letter from the Lord Mayor of London, requesting the merchants and gentlemen of Liverpool to cooperate with a committee formed in London for this purpose. He (the Mayor of Liverpool) thought the best way would be to form a committee at once to solicit subscriptions. After some conversation, it was agreed to regard this as a preliminary meeting. A general committee was appointed to draw up appropriate resolutions, and make the necessary preparations with a view to holding a public meeting to promote the object in view.

FATAL COLLIERIES EXPLOSION IN STAFFORDSHIRE.—An explosion occurred in a mine near Redgrave last week—luckily, when only four men were engaged in the pit. A large number of colliers and others immediately gathered at the mouth of the pit, and were taking steps to go to the assistance of the poor fellows, when a second explosion took place. A volume of flame rushed up the shaft, and a corse which was being lowered into the pit was slivered to pieces. The fragments fell among the assembled crowd, many of whom were thrown down and seriously injured. One man had his right leg broken in two places, and his left arm broken, and many others were cut and bruised about the head and face. After every attention had been paid to the sufferers, attempts to rescue the men in the pit were resumed; but it was not till midnight that two of the men were brought to the surface, alive and conscious, but sadly burnt. The following afternoon the bodies of the two remaining men were found; they were then quite dead. They were found lying within a few yards of each other, with their clothes ripped off and their bodies burnt dreadfully. The deceased were brothers.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.—Two cases of an exceedingly painful nature have just occurred in Devonshire. A girl named Jane Newberry was reported to have been ill-used by her father, a shoemaker. An inquest was held on the body of the child; the jury did not consider the evidence sufficient to justify them in returning a verdict of manslaughter, but required the coroner, Mr. W. A. Cooke, to censure Newberry for his brutal conduct to the poor child. Since then the magistrates for the division have caused him to be apprehended, and on Saturday, after hearing evidence, they committed him for trial on the charge of manslaughter. At Exeter, a boy of 13 was seen to fall down in the High Street. He was taken to the Guildhall in a dying state, and two days afterwards expired. It subsequently appeared that he had been discharged from the workhouse on the very day when he fell, from an exhaustion, in the street. The coroner's jury, who inquired into the case, returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased died from natural causes; but we feel convinced that death was accelerated by a want of sufficient care during the six days and nights he remained in the workhouse; and to exposure arising from an inconsiderate discharge from the workhouse at a time when the boy was in a deplorable state of weakness."

THE CONDITION OF SOLDIERS' WIVES.—Dr. Duncan, Physician to the Essex and Colchester Hospital, states that more than 130 soldiers' families at Colchester were, at the commencement of the late severe weather, utterly destitute of proper clothing and bedding, and nearly starving; that, had it not been for the charity of their officers and of the townspeople, they would have perished; and that even now, if the benevolence of those who visit these unfortunate were relaxed, the same result would ensue. The distress, he says, has been produced by the transmission of the depôts of certain regiments from Ireland to Colchester.

FORTIFICATIONS OF SWANSEA HARBOUR.—It is the intention of the Government to fortify the harbour at Swansea by mounting two heavy guns on the seaward angle of the east pier. The War-office have requested information as to the capability of the pier to bear heavy ordnance, as from a recent report the pier was not stable enough for a battery of guns. In reply, the authorities have been informed that there is every likelihood that the pier will be rebuilt, and that the War Department can erect any masonry that may be required.

PROPOSED MONUMENT TO CRIMEAN HEROES.—A very crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held at the Town Hall, Sheffield, on Monday, for the purpose of considering the best means for erecting a monument to the memory of the heroes of Sheffield and its neighbourhood who fell in the Crimean war. Resolutions were adopted, and the necessary steps taken for carrying out the objects of the meeting.

APPREHENDED BY CHANCE.—Inspector Fearn, with some constables, were on Friday week on duty at the Derby Railway Station, on the look-out for the little army of thieves who sometimes pay a visit from Nottingham on a market-day. Presently, two young men arrived, and by their dress and manner excited the Inspector's attention. The young men walked quickly to a public-house in Saddle Lane, where they were arrested. Upon one of the men was found £40 in silver and £80 in gold, the silver, which was in a bag, having been apparently buried, as some particles of earth were clinging to it. The prisoners were taken at once before the borough magistrates; and having given a very loose account of themselves and the money, were remanded for further inquiry. On Monday morning, Sergeant Sandford, of the Manchester detective force, came over to Derby, and stated that the money had been stolen from a cart in Manchester, and the prisoners were removed to Manchester the same afternoon to be examined on the charge. It appears that on the Wednesday night previous £170—£118 in silver and £52 in half-sovereigns—were being taken in a cart from Corporation Street, Manchester, to Mr. Gibb's mill at Worsley, for the purpose of paying wages. The cart was induced to call at a beer-house in Water Street, and he remained there two hours, during which time drink was freely circulated among his companions. A little before eight o'clock the cart got up to go away, and, after proceeding a short distance, discovered that the money was missing. He gave information of the robbery, and was the next morning apprehended, along with another man, on suspicion of committing the theft. Whilst these two were in custody on suspicion, the police obtained information that the robbery had been committed by Joseph Chadcock, a somewhat notorious thief. They traced him to Stockport, and there found that he had been joined by a man named William N., and that he had purchased new clothing, so as to change his appearance. He had also given a man £10 in silver to get changed for gold. The man took the silver, but did not return with the gold, the thief being thus robbed himself. After changing £20 worth of silver for gold with a publican, they went to Derby, and were apprehended as described.

THE CONFESSION OF MURDER AT HALIFAX.—The blacksmith, James Smith, who charged himself with murdering the governor of Carlisle city jail, has been brought up before the Halifax magistrates. He now denied everything he had previously asserted. Under these circumstances, and as the communications received from the police of Carlisle contained no information confirmatory of the prisoner's original statement, the magistrates discharged him, ordering him to pay the expenses.

A BROKEN HEART.—A sad story was recently told the Liverpool Coroner's court. Jane Prescott, a respectable married woman, twenty-four years of age, died on Monday week, at her house in Boundary Street. Her mother, father, and sister, all appeared, been imprisoned for felony, and their punishment and disgrace preyed much on her mind. Her father, who had only come out of jail a few days before, was again taken up for stealing on the Sunday. This repeated disaster had such an effect upon his daughter, that the next day she went upstairs to her bed-room, lay down on the bed, and died. Her last words were, "Oh, dear, what have they done to me; I'm not able to bear this trouble!"

A STRIKING DOUBT.—The other evening a young man had got on a pair of new boots, which he was trying, in one of the shops on the Long Row, in Nottingham, when a rough-looking fellow stepped in, struck him a violent blow on the side of the head, and ran away. "Would you stand that?" said the customer to the shopkeeper. "That I should not," was the reply. The young man, thus encouraged, started after his assailant, and must still be in full chase, as he has not since been seen in Nottingham, though the new boots were not paid for, and a pair of very old ones were left behind.

MR. HUMPHREY BROWN, M.P., AND THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—A public dinner was given at Teakbury, on Monday night, followed by a presentation of a plate, to Mr. H. Brown, M.P. for the borough, and a director of the Royal British Bank. The testimonial consisted of a handsome silver centre piece, valued at 250 guineas. Mr. Brown's health having been drunk in the course of the evening, he replied, addressing himself to a defence of his conduct in reference to his connection with the Royal British Bank. He said the statement that he had gone forth, that he owed the bank a sum of £70,000, had been put forward for the most dastardly purpose, and was a "downright lie." But when treated with his dealings with the bank, he dared not reveal them without a breach of confidence, which would have been disgraceful to him, and ruinous to scores of others. Mr. Brown went on to make an explanation as to a sum of £40,000 which had been transferred to his debit on the expected insolvency of another party. He declared that a sum of £400 had been spent in the attempt to make him (Mr. Brown) a bankrupt, with the view of obtaining information from him, but the solicitor to the assignees, who was a very clever man, had found out that he really did not owe the money. He denied any director of a joint-stock bank to know anything more of its affairs than the manager chose to let him; and this remark, applied with greater force to the bank with which he had been connected, which had 6,000 or 7,000 accounts, and some 150 clerks employed in the establishment. The bank had no doubt been very badly managed, and he reproached himself for having joined it.

FEARFUL COLLIERIES EXPLOSION NEAR BARNESLEY.

The Lund Hill Colliery is situated in the neighbourhood of Barnsley, at about a mile from the Wombwell Station of the South Yorkshire Railway. The pit, which is about 220 yards deep, is worked night and day by separate sets of workmen. The day workers, to the number of about 200, descended into the pit as usual, at about six o'clock on the morning of Thursday week; of these men not a fourth came out of the pit alive.

The pit was carefully examined in the morning before the commencement of operations, by the underground steward, and nothing at all indicative of danger was perceived. The pit itself seems to have been very well regulated. The bed of coal is very rich, and the workings were proportionally extensive and complete. There were two working shafts and one air shaft, the latter being but a few yards from the principal working shaft. The draught down the working and up the air shafts was promoted by a fan of unusual magnitude; and the workings were ventilated in the ordinary way by main tramways to and fro, in opposite directions, with stoppings in the "benks," &c., to force the air into those parts where the men were at work. The mine was so well ventilated, in fact, that the draught in the airways was often sufficiently strong to blow out a lighted candle; for naked candles, and not Davy lamps, were in many instances used by the miners; but, though the seam is what is called a "fiery" one, this was considered perfectly safe.

However, at half-past twelve o'clock, on the day above mentioned, an explosion which shook the earth for a considerable distance occurred in the pit. At this time some twenty or thirty men had ascended to go to dinner; but it was known, of course, that by far the greater number of the people engaged in the mine were at that moment within it. The effect to the poor cottagers whose houses were shaken by the explosion may be conceived. Women and children, who too well knew the meaning of the explosion, rushed toward the pit's mouth in wild excitement. Wives who had husbands, mothers who had sons working in the mine, flocked together from every side, with countenances that more strongly expressed their terror and despair, than even their lamentations.

A very few words will describe the full catastrophe that had befallen these poor creatures. Such was the force of the explosion, that no hope could remain that any single creature in the pit at the disastrous moment could have survived it; and several hours elapsed before there was any possibility of making a venture to save those who might have escaped the shock. So violent had been the explosion that it had torn away the drawing ropes, and blown the frame or chair in which the corves are drawn up into the head gearing. It was not till four o'clock, therefore, that the apparatus for descending the pit could be replaced. Several brave men then went down and found nineteen of the miners crowded about the bottom of the shaft, waiting to be drawn up. These were the fortunate few who had been working near the foot of the shaft. They were forthwith drawn up, and scores of shrieking women and children crowded round the place to see them ascend, screaming for joy, or sobbing with disappointment, as they recognised relatives or strangers. Of these, four were dangerously injured; the others had passed scathless.

In the meantime, the men who had descended the pit penetrated 400 or 500 yards along the main tramways to ascertain the state of the mine, and were then forced to recede by the density of the sulphur. They picked up thirteen dead bodies in the tramways, some of them frightfully mutilated. So far as the explorers could ascertain, the force of the explosion had extended over the whole of the workings. They found the ventilation "stoppings" with the "benks" and boardways all blown out, and the earth and coal torn down in large masses, so as to effectually stop the course of ventilation in those parts of the pit where the miners had been at work. The consequence was that the workings were so charged with sulphur that it was utterly impossible to penetrate them; and any of the men who might not be killed by the primary effects of the explosion were necessarily left to perish miserably by the noxious gases.

While these measures were being taken in the hope of rescuing the poor fellows in the pit, a new and peculiar disaster developed itself. The air shaft is but thirty or forty yards from the principal working shaft. It was surmounted by a capacious chimney some twenty feet in height. From two to three o'clock volumes of smoke were observed to issue from the air shaft, and this was succeeded at a later hour by an immense volume of flame. Some tremendous had been the accumulations of inflammable gases in the pit that they had set the coal on fire, and it was blazing from a depth of more than 200 feet clear out of the chimney top—a fact from which some idea may be gathered of the magnitude and intensity of the fire. The flames increased in volume until about seven o'clock, when they rose to the height of fifty or sixty feet above the top of the chimney, illuminating the whole neighbourhood. A large quantity of wood had been used in the lining of the air shaft, and the fire threw up to the height of some hundreds of feet an immense shower of sparks and burning pieces of wood, visible for miles round. The flames became so fierce as to threaten the destruction of an accumulation of coal and timber about the pit hill; and the chimney itself ultimately fell to pieces.

It was now resolved to stop up the mouths of the pit, in order to stay the progress of the fire. This decision the proprietors of the mine did not come to without the most anxious deliberation; for the consideration that scores of human beings might thus, as it were, be shut out from all possible escape, was not a light one. Still, that any one could survive seemed impossible; and had this decision of the proprietors been delayed only a few hours longer, there was danger of the fire spreading and burning with such intensity, as to cause the fall of the bed of coal and superincumbent earth, and the consequent falling in of the shafts. Had this happened, probably none of the bodies would ever have been recovered.

Notwithstanding these considerations, however, the proprietors of the pit felt that, in permitting the downcast shafts to be closed, they incurred a very grave responsibility, and accordingly called a meeting of colliery owners, and other gentlemen, from the surrounding district, to consider the matter. The result of this conference was an unanimous approval. The great question was, had the shafts been closed while any possibility of saving life remained? Mr. Webster, one of those who descended into the pit to the assistance of the unfortunate fellows there, described the condition of the mine. On getting to the bottom of the shaft they found that the lower portion of the slides and broadgates were entirely blown up and destroyed; and on proceeding further, they found the coal around the furnace in a complete state of ignition. The coal and woodwork in the up-cast shaft had taken fire, and the flames were raging furiously. He could compare it to nothing but to a stream of molten metal poured down the shaft. They proceeded about 200 or 250 yards along the south level, and found the whole of the furnace down, and the coal on fire. They proceeded up the levels and broadgates as far as they dared to venture, until they came in contact with the foul air, and were obliged to retreat. They returned to the shaft, and then made an examination of the north levels, along which they proceeded for a distance of 400 yards, up to the fourth broadgate. During the investigation they found many dead bodies, and the men who accompanied them brought the remains to the shaft. One man was found dead close to the bottom of the shaft; further on they found ten bodies in a mass. Not far from the furnace it was supposed that a large number of bodies were lying, as the men generally congregated near the fire at dinner time. The furnace was blown down, and the stables (containing six horses) were on fire. When they got near the up-cast shaft, they saw immense masses of coal and rock falling down. The shaft was like a furnace. The difference in the state of the fire when he entered the pit and when he left it was very great. They were in the pit above two hours. The stoppages and brattices between the two shafts were completely blown away, and therefore, except in the level, the pit was dead—i.e., full of bad air. They would have succeeded in putting up stoppages, but the fire increased to such an extent that they were obliged to retreat. They were so placed that if they had not retreated, they would have been suffocated, because the air was "backing" direct from one shaft to the other. They then considered it their duty to acquaint the owners with the position of the mine, and to state that it was imperative to close the shafts, as there was no probability of saving any more lives, and that it was the only chance to render the pit in a fit condition for working in again. In a few minutes after they left the mine, the cupola shaft or chimney was filled with fire.

A subscription has been opened for the benefit of the widows and orphans, whom this catastrophe has thrown upon the charity of the public.

INQUEST ON ONE OF THE SUFFERERS.

On Monday, an inquest was opened on the body of Abraham Turner, one of the men who were got out of the pit alive shortly after the accident, but who died on Saturday morning. The proprietors of the pit were present at the inquiry, as was also the Government Inspector of Mines in that district. The proceedings on the inquest are thus reported:—

Alice Turner, mother of the deceased, having identified the body of her son (he was only twenty-one years of age),

William Colbridge, fireman of the colliery, was called, and said—I saw the deceased in the pit several times on Thursday. The explosion occurred about twenty minutes past twelve at noon. I was in the pit at the time, and got to the bottom as soon as I could. Abraham Turner came to the bottom an hour and a half after me. He complained of cold, and of being very badly burnt. I took off my jacket, and put it upon him. He sat beside me and the other men until we were drawn up. There were fifteen or sixteen of us when he arrived, and two or three others came afterwards. Nineteen were got out between four and five o'clock. Only two were burnt, so far as I know—the deceased and another man. I went into the pit on Thursday morning at four o'clock, and went all round the workings on the south and west sides of the pit, until I met William Illingworth, the other fireman, in the centre of the furnace board. I found all the places I visited in excellent working order. William Illingworth had to examine the north levels and workings, and it was after he had done this that we met. It is supposed that there are over 160 persons now in the pit. Naked candles were in general use; we thought it safe to use them. It was part of my duty to order Davy lamps where I thought them necessary, and I attended to it. I did not order Davy lamps to be used on Thursday last by the miners.

John Warhurst, another fireman, said—I was at home when the explosion occurred. I went to the pit immediately, and found the chair for the corves was blown up into the head gear. We got into the pit as soon as we could; it was about half-past four o'clock. As we descended we heard men at the bottom screaming for assistance. We found a number of men congregated at the bottom, and sent them out as soon as possible. I left a man named Hamerton assisting to get the men out, and proceeded to look round. On reaching the cupola (upcast shaft), I found that it was on fire about the furnace. I found a man lying on a heap of burning coals, and took him off. I could only get a few yards further up the boardgate, as the fire-damp fired in my lamp. I returned into the level, and there met with another dead body. Further on the south level I found a third and fourth body, after which I returned to the shaft, not thinking it prudent to go further by myself. I had gone seventy or eighty yards. I returned, went out, and reported what I had seen. We went on the south side until we got between the second and third boardgate, where we found four or five more dead bodies. It was about 250 yards. The lamp showed fire, and we were afraid to go further lest it should explode again. We returned to the shaft. I ascended and took some more men down, as far as the fourth boardgate, which is 400 yards from the bottom of the pit. On account of the fire-damp we could not go further. The bodies were taken to the bottom of the shaft by the men I had fetched down, after which I went on the north side. We found five or six more dead bodies near the end of this level. We found fifteen or sixteen bodies in all, but only removed about half of them to the bottom of the shaft. I went to the cupola and found the fire burning about twenty-five yards each way, and I went and told the other persons that the furnace would fall in. Indeed, I saw the arches of the furnace and some masses of burning coal fall from the sides of the arch leading to the furnace. I expected that if we remained we should all be killed, and the other men were of the same opinion. I saw the stables on fire. We could not get to both ends of the stable, for the gas fired in the lamps.

A conversation succeeded, during which Mr. Morton, the Government Inspector, stated that he was afraid many of the bodies left in the pit would be very much burnt, and that he could not give an opinion as to when the pit would be re-opened, as, if it were re-opened prematurely, the fire would be again fanned into a flame, and a further explosion might result.

The inquest was then adjourned until Monday next.

Joseph Simmonds, one of the colliers, would have been saved but for the state of delicious excitement in which he was found, consequent upon the inhalation of gas. He was the last man to arrive amongst those who had reached the eye of the shaft. When, however, those who had descended were about to lift him into the chair, or cage, to send him up, he broke from them and ran off, but was caught; and again he struggled with those who would have preserved him, dashed off into the workings, and was seen no more. To show the painful and devastating effect of the awful occurrence, it may be stated, that, in the row of fifty houses standing about fifty yards from the works, ninety-one of the late residents now lie in the pit, whilst the houses are tenanted by forty suddenly-made widows.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.—The question of the Danubian Principalities assumes increased importance as the opening of the national divans draws near. The French press continues vigorously to support the formation of a united Roumanian state, should the divans express a wish for it; a policy which is opposed to that of England, Austria, and perhaps of Turkey also. The "Official Gazette" of Milan (an Austrian journal) thus comments on the note in the "Moniteur" upon this subject, which we reproduced in the "Illustrated Times" of last week:—"The article of the French official organ, in defending the union of the Principalities, thwarts the views of Austria and Great Britain, who had declared themselves in favour of a separate administration of these provinces. It is a brand of discord thrown into the league of the 15th of April, 1856, which was concluded for the common defence of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire. Austria and England are not Powers to allow themselves to be readily turned aside from their plans, or to fail in their observance of treaties. It must, therefore, be believed that the question put forward by the 'Moniteur' cannot be solved in accordance with its views, even should the statesmen of Turkey admit the opportuneness of what the French official organ calls for." A letter from Vienna says, that at a recent conference between Baron de Werder, Baron Koller, and the Ambassadors of England and Turkey, the latter declared that Turkey would never consent to the union of the Principalities, not even should the divans pronounce in a great majority for that measure. Sir Hamilton Seymour spoke in the same sense.

THE AUSTRIAN MURDER IN MANTUA.—A letter from Milan says:—"The Emperor promised the deputation which waited on him from Mantua, relative to the affair of the death of Bianchi, that full justice should be done, and that the sentence to be pronounced against the authors of that crime should be given publicly. His Majesty, on the same day, sent General Keiner, his adjutant, to Mantua, to commence the proceedings against the guilty parties. In addition, an order of the day has been issued by the Emperor, blaming severely the conduct of the officers of Mantua."

A MORMONITE SPECTACLE.—Some men were baptised in the river Rother, on Thursday week. The only decency observed in the ceremony was the choice of the hour—eight o'clock—when it was dark. The darkness, however, did not prevent the assemblage of some hundred and fifty persons, chiefly women, who called to each other from opposite sides, and cracked jokes of a most shameless character. Two or three candles were brought down to the water and stuck in the mud. The "priest" then took his station in the river, when the converts came severally down to the water; some half-dressed, others utterly nude. They had to pass through the spectators who lined the shore, and were baptised (by immersion), to the extreme amusement of the bystanders.

RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.—The London and North-Western Railway will on the 5th of March issue warrants of dividend at 6 per cent.—The North London Railway report shows a net balance of £23,352, being sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half year ending the 31st of December, and leave £785 to be carried forward.—It is understood that the Attorney-General, whose opinion has been asked, has informed the directors of the Great Northern Company, that they cannot legally pay any dividend upon the A or old stock of the company without the sanction of Parliament.—A dividend of 4½ per cent. on the Berwick Section, and of 3½ per cent. on the York Section, has been returned for the half year by the North-Eastern Company.—The South-Eastern Company has a net balance of £187,403 10s. 2d., available for dividend on the ordinary consolidated stock of the company; the directors propose a dividend of 15s. per £30 stock, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £1,561 0s. 2d.—The directors of the Caledonian Railway will recommend a dividend of 3½ per cent.—The South Wales Company have declared their dividend at 4 per cent.—The Norfolk Railway will pay 4 per cent.—The South Staffordshire also 4 per cent.

NOTES ON PERSIA.

We have the satisfaction of announcing, this week, under the head of Foreign Intelligence, that our dispute with Persia is virtually settled. We trust that this may actually turn out to be the case. The terms, on which the Conference has arranged matters are even mentioned. It is said that the British Government, besides the Island of Karrack, has obtained authority to found an establishment on the Island of Ormuz, and to form depôts of coal on several points of the Persian coasts.

The "Gazette of Teheran" of the 8th of January, contains a new manifesto of the Persian Government, which assuredly conveys a somewhat different idea. The concessions offered by Persia to Great Britain are alluded to, and a contrast is instituted between the friendly disposition of Persia and the determined hostility of England. The manifesto concludes in the following terms:—

SKETCHES IN PERSIA, BY EUGENE FLANDIN.



KAZEROUN.

"Seeing after this the fruitlessness of its friendly advances and loyal efforts, and being persuaded that England will not refrain from carrying further its domineering desires and unjust views, the Persian Government finds itself obliged to appeal to the favour of the Most High, and to use all the means in its power to defend the country and people, and to resist an insolent enemy; and to submit to any sacrifice for the welfare and honour of the nation, that these objects, its holy religion, may not be lightly exposed to ignominy and dishonour."

"It is clear that the Persian Government has had no intention of offending a powerful ally, or of finding pretexts for infringing upon treaties, nor a desire to revive slumbering grievances, or to see the shedding of human blood. Which of the two parties will have provoked this great calamity the Most High will judge. The Persian Government has not neglected, nor will neglect, anything in the despatch of commanders, and sufficient military forces and artillery, or in the adoption of all suitable measures for the repulsion of the enemy. Amongst others, the illustrious Mirza-Mahomet Khan, Serkehikchi-Bachi (chief of his Majesty's Corps of Guards), and the illustrious Emir-i-Touman, Fez-Ali-Chan Baglarbegui, have been sent into the province of Fars, supplied with necessary material. Confiding in the goodness of God, they quitted the capital on the 1st for their destination, and if England persists in its groundless hostilities, the other points and localities of the said province will not be found unprovided with the means of defence, as in the case of Benden-Bushire, and will serve for something more than a place of exercise for English troops. Supposing England to return to peace, this expedition will not entail greater losses than those which would result from English conquest."

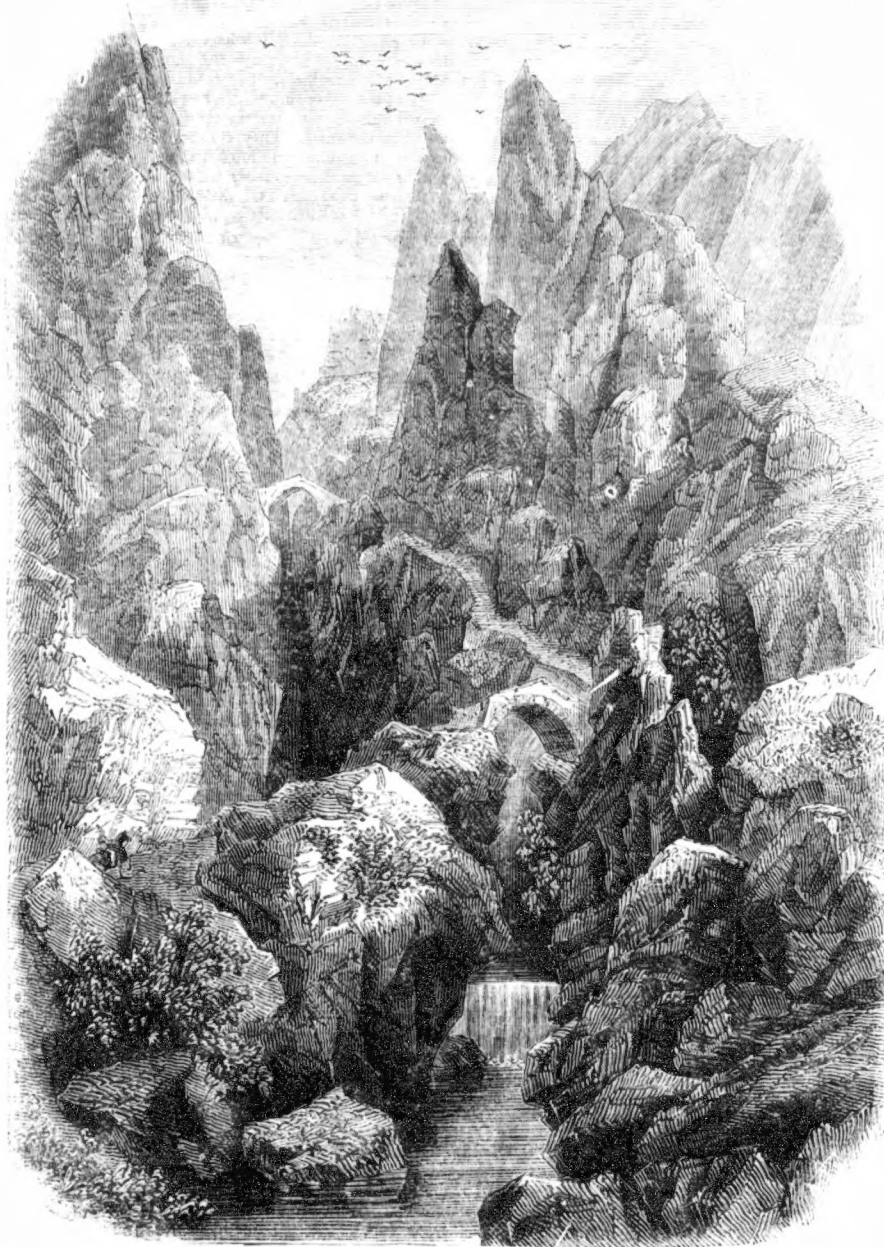
SHIRAZ.

Shiraz, which, as our readers are doubtless aware, was formerly the capital of Persia, is now the chief city in the province of Fars, and situated in a valley famous for its gardens and fertility. The city is enclosed by bastion walls nearly four miles in circumference, and entered by six gates flanked with towers. Until recently, Shiraz, viewed from the exterior, had an imposing appearance; but in the year 1824, many of its most attractive edifices were reduced to ruins by an earthquake; and since that catastrophe, the city has become much less healthy.

As Shiraz now appears, the houses are mostly small and mean, and the streets somewhat filthy. The principal buildings are the great bazaar, constructed by Kerim Khan, the embellisher of Shiraz in the last century; the citadel containing a Royal palace; the grand mosque; the numerous colleges; the splendid baths; and the Mahometan tombs.

About half a mile outside the walls of Shiraz is the grave of the renowned Persian poet, Hafiz, a native of the city; and hard by are the stream of Rocknabad, the bower of Mosella, celebrated in the verse of that author, and the far-famed Lehan Numre, to which, as well as to other gardens in the vicinity, the inhabitants of Shiraz repair for recreation.

In a trading point of view, the city of Shiraz is by no means contemptible, having extensive manufactures of silk and woollen stuffs, sword-blades, soaps, and earthenware, and a wine which has a high reputation in the country where it is produced. Wine, rose-water, otto of roses, and various articles of commerce, are sent to Bushire, in return for Chinese, Indian, and European manufactures.



DEFILES IN THE PERSIAN MOUNTAINS.

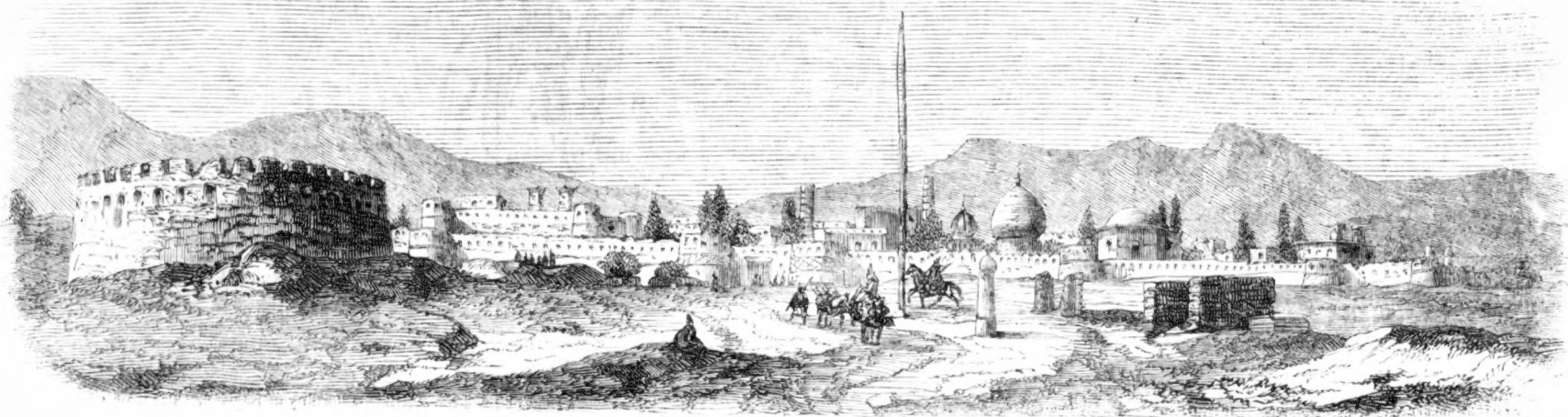
KAZEROUN.

About fifty-five miles west of Shiraz, in a fine valley in the province of Fars, Kazeroun is situated. Though in decay, the town is said to have several thousand inhabitants, with manufactures of cotton fabrics. It is besides an entrepôt for the goods between Shiraz and the coast. In the neighbourhood are the ruins of Shahpoor.

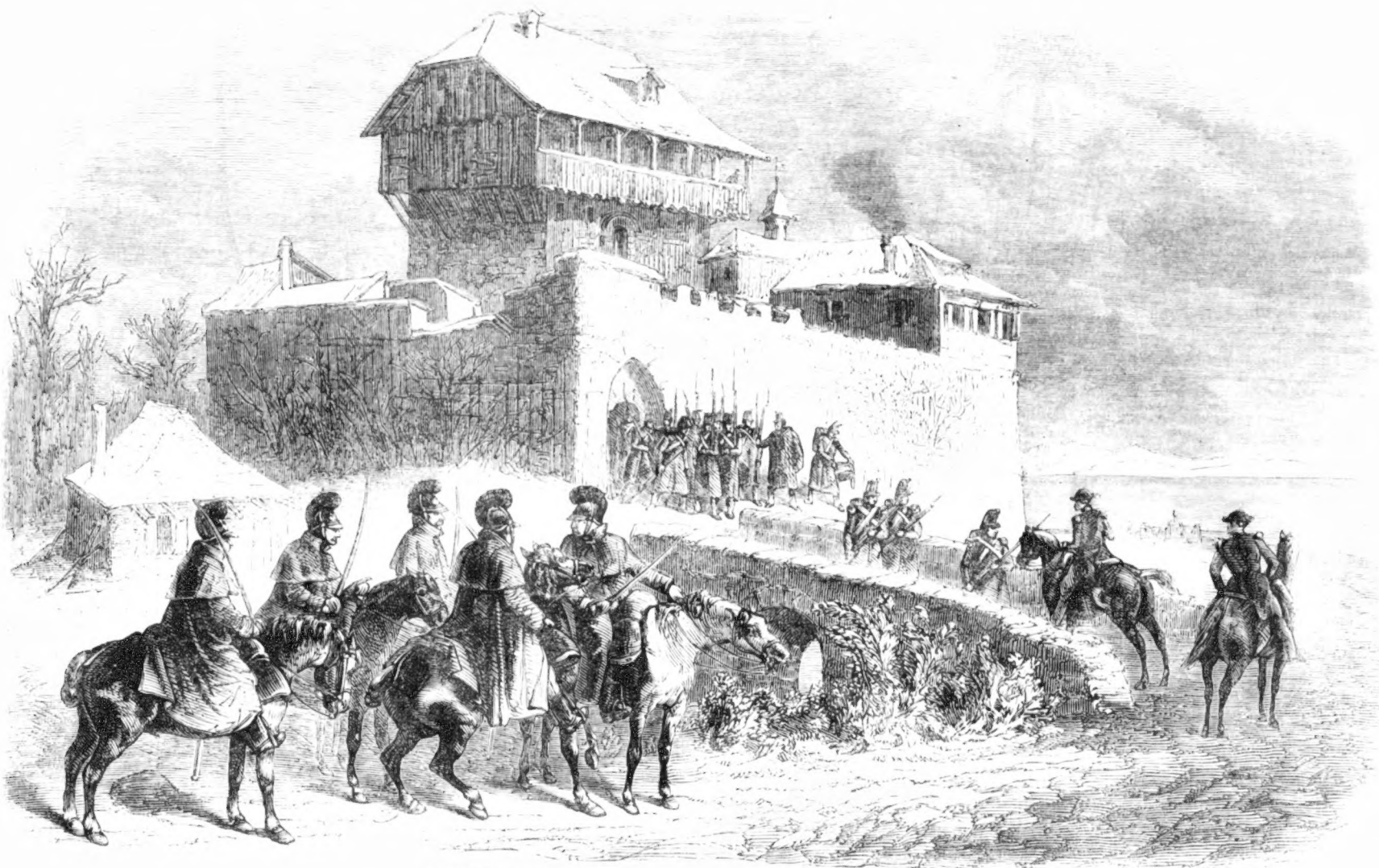
We have, in former numbers, given our readers an idea of such Persian defiles in the mountains as are represented in our engraving, and need not further enlarge on the subject.

THE SHAH AND HIS FAMILY.

Having entered so fully into details regarding places in Persia, we may, for the amusement of our readers, give the following particulars respecting its ruler and the family of which he is the head:—The present Sovereign, of whom we recently had a portrait, Nassr-ed-Din-Shah, ascended the throne in April, 1849. He was then sixteen years of age, and lived away from the court with one of his uncles, the Governor of Tabriz. He succeeded to the throne in virtue of his being the nearest of kin in the collateral line of the celebrated Feth-Ali-Shah, or Baba-Khan. Nassr-ed-Din-Shah is the fourth sovereign of the Tureoman dynasty of the Kadjars, the origin of whom is curious. The dynasty which preceded that of the Kadjars was founded in the following manner:—Under the reign of the Soppis there lived a camel-driver whose bravery procured for him the obedience of a number of his companions, who formed themselves into a band, and under his direction crowned several most successful expeditions with the conquest of the province of Khorassan. Their leader, Nadir, usurped the throne of Persia on the death of Abas III., and caused himself to be proclaimed Shah or Sovereign of Persia. Nadir Shah brought under subjection Candahar, Cabul, and several provinces of the Mogul empire. He was killed in 1747, by his first lieutenant, whose eyes he had the intention of putting out. His successor, Thamasp-Kouli-Khan II. reigned only a few years. Fearful disorders broke out at his death in Persia, and several pretenders to the throne arose. Amongst these was a member of the tribe of Kadjars, which signifies fugitives, named Mohammed-Hacan-Khan, who conquered Mazandaran and other provinces, and captured Ispahan; he was on the point of conquering all Persia, when he fell into the hands of a rival, who beheaded him in 1758. His son, Aga-Mohammed-Khan, succeeded in proclaiming himself Shah of Persia in 1794, and he founded the present dynasty. Since 1765, the Court of Persia resides at Teheran; formerly Isaphan had been the capital of the kingdom. In summer the Court is driven away from Teheran by the heat, and encamps from June 1st to September 30th at the foot of the Elboorz mountains, in the valley of Goolahak. The ambassadors and great authorities, with the richest inhabitants of the town, accompany the Court, and form a magnificent canvas town. The present Shah is of a very mild disposition, and is deeply attached to his mother, who governs his private household. She is only thirty-seven years of age, and is still beautiful. She has for secretary a French woman, who married in Paris a Persian nobleman, and accompanied her husband to his native home after having embraced his religion. The Shah has five children, to whom he is warmly attached. His eldest son, it may be remembered, died a few weeks ago.



SHIRAZ.



MAMMERTSHOFEN CASTLE, SWITZERLAND.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MR. GANDON.)



SWISS FEDERAL TROOPS ON THE HALT.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MR. GANDON.)

THE SWISS ARMY.

Intelligence from Berlin states that the four Powers who signed the protocol of 1852 have agreed that a conference on the Neuchâtel question shall be held at Paris. It appears, however, but too probable that the King of Prussia having obtained the release of the Neuchâtel prisoners, will do his utmost to avoid fulfilling his implied promise to give up all claim to the disputed principality. "The King's views, I understand," says the "Times" Berlin correspondent, "point to a return to the purely monarchical relation that existed between the principality and its Prince previous to 1806, up to which time, whatever the nature of Neuchâtel's relations and alliances with certain cantons of Switzerland may have been, there is no trace to be found in history of anything like a claim on the part of Switzerland to any share in the sovereignty or government of the principality."

Correspondence from Berne states that the ultra-partisans of the Prussian dynasty in Neuchâtel had conducted themselves so outrageously that the prefect had been compelled to order some of them to be arrested. It adds that the examination of the prisoners, so far as it went, led to the belief that some idea of a fresh insurrection was entertained by certain parties. There is no doubt, at all events, that a feeling of dissatisfaction is becoming very general in Switzerland.

While such is the state of affairs, the military power of Switzerland is a matter about which our readers cannot but experience some degree of curiosity; and this the engravings on the preceding page, and the few remarks which follow, will in some measure serve to gratify.

With the exception of two or three thousand armed police, Switzerland cannot be said to have any regular force; so that when the hour of danger approaches, an army has to be collected in a few days. Any one who has watched the progress of events from the month of December last, must have observed with astonishment the promptitude with which 35,000 men have been sent to the borders of the Rhine, and remarked the order and energy which exist in the various military departments. The management of these departments—especially since the revision of the federal constitution—has occupied the serious attention, not only of the governments of the different cantons, but also of the federal council and the legislative authority of the Confederation.

It appears that every Swiss is a soldier, and that none can purchase exemption from the military service due to the country. Even those who are incapacitated by infirmities are obliged to serve in the various Government offices. At seventeen years of age the youth of Switzerland are, under the direction of competent instructors, taught the use of the musket, and at nineteen they receive the military uniform. From the age of twenty to thirty they form the flower of the army; from thirty to forty they are incorporated in the army of reserve, and later in life in the *landwehr*.

The Swiss are a military people, and recruits are still collected from the mountains and villages for various European nations—more particularly for Rome and Naples. Rich and poor, nobles and peasants, wear the same uniform with pride, and promotion is rapid though gained entirely by merit. The active federal army is divided into nine divisions, each division being composed of 10,000 men, which gives a total of 90,000. But it often happens that this number is increased by one-fourth. For instance the battalions of the Cantons of Vaud and Argovie, as well as those of other cantons, which ought to consist only of 700 men, number nearly 1,300 each. Thus the *élite* of the army may be estimated at 130,000 men. With the active and reserve, Switzerland can muster an army of not fewer than 300,000 men, armed and equipped according to the federal regulations. The *landwehr* is organised less systematically; nevertheless, it would present a determined front to any enemy bold or rash enough to pass the first lines of defence. Such an enemy would be driven back by these courageous masses of mountaineers, who ever forget danger when their country is threatened. The Swiss infantry is, perhaps, inferior to that of some other nations, as the soldiers cannot be formed to military discipline, excepting at long intervals, and then only for a few days. The Artillery and Engineers enjoy a wide celebrity; but the Rifleman are undoubtedly the most important branch of the Swiss army. They are mostly from the mountain and forest cantons, and have from early life been chamois hunters. They are remarkable for the correctness of their aim, as well as their activity, and can endure almost any amount of fatigue.

THE MURDERS IN WALWORTH.

In some few copies of our last number, the report of the last examination in this case was omitted; we therefore repeat it in this first edition.

Bacon and his wife had scarcely made their appearance in court, when the following telegraphic message reached the court from Stamford—"Arsenic is found by Dr. Taylor." As no further evidence was offered, Mr. Elliott, after reading the message publicly, said, that no more remained to be done than to send the prisoners for trial. The Magistrate also said that he had received a letter signed A., disclosing circumstances of a peculiar nature incidentally connected with this case; and, though anonymous, the writer expressed his willingness to come forward if desired. This the Magistrate hoped he would do, as his statements were important.

The prisoners were then removed. On reaching his cell, the fortitude with which Bacon had heard the announcement of the discovery of poison in the body of his mother utterly gave way. Recovering his self-possession, he begged to see his wife. The gaoler told him that could not be without the magistrate's sanction.

Bacon then said he should first write a note for her, and then ask the magistrate for an interview; and, if that was refused, he should ask for permission to send her the note he should write. A pen, ink, and paper being given to him, he wrote a note, and was then taken before the magistrate, when, addressing Mr. Elliott, he asked to be allowed to see his wife. The magistrate refused his request, and furthermore forbade any communication with her.

THE INQUEST ON MRS. BACON.

The inquest on the body of Bacon's mother was opened on Wednesday, at Great Casterton, Rutland.

Dr. Alfred Taylor then read the result of his analysis, as follows:—That the body of Ann Bacon contained arsenic, which must have been taken by her or administered to her while living. That arsenic was found in the largest proportion—first, in the intestines; second, in the liver and gall, and bladder; thirdly, in the stomach. The kidneys and spleen contained a small quantity. The heart and blood liquid of the chest contained none. That the total quantity extracted from the different parts was about three-quarters of a grain. That the parts containing the arsenic were well preserved, but presented none of those appearances which are usually produced by this poison. That whether the deceased died from the effects of arsenic or natural causes can only be determined by the symptoms from which she suffered in the illness preceding her death.

Mr. Edward Barber, surgeon, of Stamford, who attended Mrs. Bacon in her last illness, said that he then believed she was attacked by English cholera. She had pains in the abdomen, was sick, and purged. The symptoms were such as would be produced by arsenic.

Mrs. Bacon, of Stamford, said she was present when Mrs. Ann Bacon died. She saw the deceased on the Sunday, when she told her that she was very well in the morning, and had been taken ill at dinner, after supping some broth. Deceased was sick twice in witness's presence. Witness saw deceased again on Monday, when Bacon said to his wife, "Give her something out of the bottle," pointing to one on the table, which was not a medicine bottle. Witness asked what it was, and Bacon replied, "Oh, something she had yesterday that did her good." After she died, he took the bottle away. He said, "As this is mine, I will take it." The stuff in the bottle was a light-coloured fluid. About an hour and a half before Mrs. Bacon's death, Thomas Bacon remarked to witness, "I suppose you know that by my father's will this house and all that is in it belongs to me and my sister." Witness replied that it would be quite time enough to talk about the property when his mother was dead. He was to have succeeded to some house property worth £90 a year, subject to certain legacies; and was disappointed when his mother's will was discovered. About six weeks before her death Mrs. Bacon was taken very ill, and was sick several times. She told witness that she had been to Thomas's, and had a cup of tea, and had not taken anything except an egg afterwards.

Some other evidence having been adduced, a verdict of "Wilful Murder" was returned against Thomas Bacon.

MORE SUSPECTED POISONING.

Some circumstances have come to the knowledge of the police at Stamford which have induced the authorities there to order the exhumation of the body of Nathaniel Bacon, the father of Thomas Fulver Bacon. It is stated that Mr. Bacon, sen., was possessed of house property in Stamford to the extent of £160 per annum, a portion of which would immediately revert to his son, Thomas Fulver Bacon, and the remainder to his wife for life. Nathaniel Bacon, the father, died with his son on the 13th of October, 1854, was taken ill, seized with cramps, spasms, and vomiting, died on the 17th, and was interred in Great Casterton Churchyard. The chemical analysis of the remains of the deceased will be commenced without delay.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXXIII.

THERE are several motions which are as safe to appear every session upon the notice paper as the swallows are to settle upon our chimneys in the spring. Spooner's motion to disendow Maynooth—Locke King's to assimilate the county and borough franchise—Henry Berkeley's, or the ballot—Sir Joshua Walsley's for reform in Parliament—Oliver's for the admission of French wines duty free—Mr. Fagan's on Ministers' money in Ireland—and sundry others from Lord John Russell and Sir John Pakington for the education of the people—these are all annual motions; come out as regularly as the almanacks; and are regularly dismissed in one way or another—by successive postponements, count-outs, or formal rejection. Two have already been cleared off the paper, and no longer "stop the way." Locke King's and Mr. Spooner's both received their *couple grace* in one night; the first by a majority of thirteen, and the second by eight. They are like the officers of an army in a dense fog, where it is impossible to distinguish their own men from their enemies, or, rather, like the said officers in an insurrection, when they cannot depend upon the loyalty of their troops, and so they are obliged to content themselves with wandering about the lobby, and hoping that chance may achieve what discipline cannot. We venture to say that on both these motions not a man in the House could have calculated within fifty how the divisions would turn out; whereas, generally, the "Whips" know within two or three the result long before the numbers are declared. On Locke King's motion the confusion was unprecedented, and the division very remarkable. Almost all the Liberal party voted against the Liberal Government, and the Tories in its favour; and there was seen the strange sight of Lord John Russell heading a large body of Liberals in opposition to their nominal chief, and Disraeli coming to the rescue of a Liberal Government with a strong phalanx of Tories. This was very unnatural; and the victory, though gained by the Government, was considered to be almost as damaging to its character as a defeat would have been.

THE "WHIPS" AT FAULT.

On Locke King's motion for assimilating the borough and county franchise, and Mr. Spooner's to get rid of the endowment of Maynooth, the "Whips" were completely at fault, for such was the confusion of parties, that the most sagacious "Whip" could not discover a friend from a foe, and, therefore, was obliged to stand still, quite helpless, and leave the divisions to take their chance. It is melancholy to see these functionaries reduced to such a dilemma; they are like the officers of an army in a dense fog, where it is impossible to distinguish their own men from their enemies, or, rather, like the said officers in an insurrection, when they cannot depend upon the loyalty of their troops, and so they are obliged to content themselves with wandering about the lobby, and hoping that chance may achieve what discipline cannot. We venture to say that on both these motions not a man in the House could have calculated within fifty how the divisions would turn out; whereas, generally, the "Whips" know within two or three the result long before the numbers are declared. On Locke King's motion the confusion was unprecedented, and the division very remarkable. Almost all the Liberal party voted against the Liberal Government, and the Tories in its favour; and there was seen the strange sight of Lord John Russell heading a large body of Liberals in opposition to their nominal chief, and Disraeli coming to the rescue of a Liberal Government with a strong phalanx of Tories. This was very unnatural; and the victory, though gained by the Government, was considered to be almost as damaging to its character as a defeat would have been.

PALMERSTON IN DANGER.

That the Palmerston Government is in danger is now generally admitted, both in the House and the lobby. Mr. Hayter has, however, no apprehensions of a defeat on the Budget question. He will lose many of the usual supporters of the Government, but these deserters will be more than compensated by Tory volunteers. The military men in the House will, almost to a man, support the Government. They look with no favour upon the demand to reduce the estimates, for they know that if there is to be a reduction it must be in the military department. Still, the chief of the "Whips" looks nervous and anxious; and it is very plain to all observers that matters are not at all to his mind. What he likes is to lead into the House a compact, well-organised phalanx of Liberals, and not to be obliged to his foes for a rescue from his friends. He is far too sagacious not to know that such a state of things cannot last long. No man can see what is in the wind better than the Right Honourable Member for Wells. Nevertheless, unless we mistake, "the end is not yet." The Ministerial ship may be rickety, but unless some unforeseen accident happen, it is generally believed by "those who ought to know" that it will hold together for some time to come, chiefly because no other is ready for sea; and, moreover, if the Premier should meet with a serious defeat, he will probably dissolve Parliament, unless he should accept the warnings that his frequent attacks of gout have lately given him, and retire.

"That, like the Roman in the capitol,
He may adjust his mantle ere he fall."

THE GREAT DEBATE—THE PRINCESS ROYAL A LISTENER.

On the night that Mr. Disraeli moved his resolution on the Budget, there was a very large number of expectants in the lobby and waiting rooms. At half-past three o'clock there were more than sufficient assembled to fill the whole of the space set apart in the House for strangers; and as soon as the galleries were opened every seat was taken, and still a crowd of people was left behind. Indeed, up to ten o'clock, the lobby was filled by persons anxious to get into the House. The Peers' Gallery was full before five o'clock, chiefly by members of the Upper House, and in the Ladies' Gallery every place had been taken for several days; and amongst the crowd (for it was literally a crowd) might be seen the Princess Royal. Her Royal Highness came under the care of Lady Clarendon, and was there early enough to hear Mr. Disraeli's opening speech, and did not leave until Mr. Gladstone sat down. She had, therefore, an opportunity of hearing two of the most famous speakers in the House. With Mr. Disraeli her Royal Highness was probably disappointed, for he was unusually dull—hesitated and stammered worse than ever—and did not succeed in eliciting a single cheer until he sat down, when, of course, his party fired the usual volley. But Mr. Gladstone was in his happiest mood, and delivered one of his greatest speeches. He spoke for two hours and a-half, kept for the whole of the time the unflagging attention of the House, and was frequently uproariously cheered. When the Right Hon. Gentleman sat down a curious sight met the eyes of her Royal Highness, for the mass of the Members, as if moved by one impulse, immediately arose (like a flock of crows when a man with a gun appears in the field), and rushed out of the House. Her Royal Highness would fancy, like many others, that the House was up, and that all was over; but the fact was, simply, the Members were going to dinner—and it was time—for the hand of the clock pointed to ten before Mr. Gladstone finished.

SECOND NIGHT.

On the second night, although the galleries were all full, the excitement was nothing like what it had been on the first, almost all the crack men having spoken, and it had, moreover, become certain that the Ministers were sure of a large majority. The "whipping" in the interval between Friday and Monday was very energetic. During the whole of Monday evening Members on both sides arrived from the country, and when the division was called there were 502 Members in the House—a number almost unprecedented at this period of the Session. To show how accurately, on ordinary occasions, your practised "Whip" can calculate the result of a division, we may note, that it was announced beforehand that the majority would be about 80, and there turned out to be exactly the number. The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheering.

IRISH WIT.

It is generally at the close of the business, after a long sitting, that the small fry of Irish Members make themselves heard, and then it is—often long after the reporters have left the gallery—that some funny scenes occur which are a good deal talked about, but seldom reported. On Monday night Lord Palmerston moved the appointment of a select committee on bribery at elections. Whereupon Mr. Patrick O'Brien—or as his father Sir Timothy calls him, "Pert O'Brien"—as rollicking an Irishman as ever flourished a shillalah at Donnybrook Fair, arose, with a good deal of mock solemnity, to call the attention of the Noble Lord to the serious fact that Ireland was not fairly represented on the committee, and considering the great importance of the subject to the community at large, and especially to Ireland—(loud laughter)—he trusted that the Noble Lord would postpone the appointment of the committee until an opportunity could be given for the Irish members to consider the matter. After him Mr. McCann got up. Mr. McCann is Member for Drogheda—a genuine Irishman, with a beautiful brogue. One characteristic of the Hon. Member is, that he never pairs; and when anyone asks him to pair, he invariably answers, "No; sure it's I that never pairs. I never did pair but once in my life, and then I broke me pair." His speech on this occasion was nearly as follows:—"I am astonished, Mister Spaker, at my Hon. Friend the Member for King's County. I should like to know what Ireland has to do with bribery—(loud laughter)—when it's well known that Irishmen never bribe, for the reason, we've no money to bribe with." (Cheers and laughter.)

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met on Friday evening, but no business of public interest was transacted. We may mention, however, that the Earl of Harrowby, in reply to Lord Dunsannon, stated that the Government had come to no final decision as to the division of the See of London; nor could he say positively what course they intended to pursue with regard to the superannuation and pensioning of aged bishops.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PERSIAN DIFFICULTY.

Mr. LAYARD called the attention of Lord Palmerston again to the reported Treaty between Persia and Russia, and inquired whether it was true that the negotiations with Persia at Paris had been suspended or interrupted?

Lord PALMERSTON repeated that the Government had no information upon the reported Treaty, except what they had received from the public papers; with respect to the second question, it was not true that the negotiations with the Persian Ambassador had been interrupted; they were still going on, and the Treaty was a fair prospect of a satisfactory arrangement.

THE BUDGET.

On the order for going to a Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. DISRAELI moved a resolution—"That it would be expedient, before sanctioning the financial arrangements for the ensuing year, to adjust the estimated income and expenditure in a manner which shall appear best calculated to secure the country against the risk of a deficiency in the years 1858-9, and 1859-60, and to provide for such a balance of revenue and charge respectively in the year 1860 as may place it in the power of Parliament at that period, without embarrassment to the finances, altogether to remit the income-tax." He began by pointing out that they were entering on a financial debate; that while they had endeavoured on political subjects, they ought to have only one opinion on the importance of maintaining the finances in a wholesome condition. Approving of the course taken by Government with regard to the war income-tax, he expressed his regret that Government had not evinced their sympathy for the spirit in which the people had supported the war, by announcing a last autumn that it was not intended to enforce the double income-tax. That which might have been done in Manchester was not even done in the Queen's Speech, and he had bound to give notice of a motion on the subject. But the estimates were before the House; and in discussing them he indulged in prospective finance, it must be recollected that he was commenting on a statement essentially prospective, the Budget is a prospective budget, founded on Mr. Gladstone's eminently prospective budget of 1857. Prospective finance, therefore, was introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in what he called his "plan"; and it is impossible to criticise this "plan" at all without considering its bearing on future years. To the "plan," he had two general objections—it would cause financial embarrassment; and it would render the remission of the income-tax in 1860 absolutely impossible. To make out these propositions, Mr. Disraeli went largely into the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the next three years. The income of 1858-59 he set down at £61,404,000; the expenditure at £66,389,000, increasing in this £2,000,000 for Exchequer Bonds and £1,500,000 for the Sinking Fund. There would therefore be an apparent deficiency of £5,000,000. That would be the result in the second year of the plan. All the causes of deficiency would still continue; and in the third year, when the House looked for the extinction of the income-tax, there would be a deficiency of £10,000,000. The obvious remedy was so to adjust the income and expenditure as to prevent this deficiency, and to remit the whole income-tax. The Chancellor of the Exchequer on Monday had assumed that the gross expenditure of 1858-59 would be the same as that of 1857-58—namely, £55,840,000. Why, then, not reduce the expenditure of 1857-58 to that standard, which would leave a surplus of £4,000,000 in the Exchequer without any addition to the duties on sugar or tea? If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had really determined to fall back upon the expenditure of 1853, there was no necessity whatever for any new tax, although the estimates of that year were millions above those of Lord Derby's administration. He was for wise, and would not retract: he did not propose any measure hostile to public credit or to a vote of want of confidence in the Government. If the Government would frankly adopt the policy of 1853, instead of proposing the most odious of direct taxes, the income-tax, and the most odious of indirect taxes, the tea-duty, he could have no wish to embarrass, but he disposed to make some sacrifice to support them.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER observed that Mr. Disraeli had in his opinion, offered scarcely any objection to the financial plan of the Government. In his excessive flight he had commented upon the estimates of taxation for two successive years; but no Finance Minister had ever proposed to fix, or could fix, any plan of expenditure for a future year; that depended upon Parliament alone; so that, when Mr. Disraeli talked of a deficiency in future years, he introduced an idea foreign to the subject. But although he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) would not make a budget for more than one year, he might throw some light on the possible financial position of the two following. The revenue of 1858-59 and 1859-60 would be about £62,300,000. The expenditure of 1853-4 was £55,840,000; giving an excess of £6,460,000. The excess of the Estimates this year over those of 1853-4, is about £4,000,000. It could not reasonably be anticipated that this excess could continue, a large portion being due to the peculiar circumstances of the year. He emphatically repeated, that we are not to assume, that the estimates of this year must be identical with those of future years. He should be sorry if anything interfered with the repayment of the Exchequer Bonds, and he hoped that they would be met in the years to which they belong; but the case was different with regard to the sinking fund, and Parliament might think fit to postpone the commencement of the repayment of that, since in the year fixed for the beginning of that repayment a large sum would be required to redeem Exchequer Bonds. Dealing with the remainder of Mr. Disraeli's allegations, he sought to show that his arrangements would facilitate, not embarrass our financial position, by providing revenue to meet expenditure.

MR. GLADSTONE said, no man was more deeply concerned than he was in this question, which involved a plan of finance in every part contrary to history to that which he had proposed, and which had been adopted by the present House of Commons. The efforts of successive Administrations had been directed to the consolidation and simplification of the financial laws, whereas the Chancellor of the Exchequer had disintegrated old Arthur Young, and had condemned the labours of Parliament for the last fifteen years. The income-tax, grievous and inequitable as it was, had been introduced to purchase blessings to be wrought out by its instrumentality. With what beneficial changes was it proposed now to associate this tax? The nation was that, this year, there would be a remission of taxation to the extent of £11,970,000; but omitting war taxes, to the amount of £4,470,000, the cessation of which was not due to the grace or favour of the Government, the remission of the income-tax in 1857-58 would be only £4,600,000, against which was to be set £1,400,000 to be laid upon tea and sugar; so that the real amount of taxes remitted in 1857-58 would be only £3,184,000, and he was not satisfied that the supposed surplus of £900,000 would be bond fide available. After entering into further financial details, and insisting upon the obligation of Parliament to adhere to the stipulation entered into with the country respecting the income-tax, Mr. Gladstone proceeded to a closer criticism of the Budget, in which he discovered, he said, fatal flaws. The first and main defect was that it was based upon an excessive expenditure; and he gave notice that before going into committee, he should propose that the estimates of expenditure should be revised and further reduced. He contended that £6,000,000 had been added to the regular expenditure of the country, quite apart from the war, in four years—a fact, he observed, which suggested most serious reflections. In his opinion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in saying that he could not estimate the expenditure of a future year, though he could estimate the revenue, had trifled with the House, and treated them like children. Yet he had taken the expenditure of 1853-54 as that of 1858-59, which he (Mr. Gladstone) treated as a pure delusion—calculating that the expenditure of the latter year would exceed that of 1857-58, and that the real wants of the public service were likely to increase. The prospect for next year, taking the income and expenditure of the present, appeared to him to be that there would be a revenue, after deductions, of £61,065,000 to meet an expenditure of £66,734,000, leaving a deficiency of more than £5,600,000, which, in 1860, would have augmented to £8,600,000. Mr. Gladstone then stated the amount of taxes remitted from 1842 to 1854 (deducting taxes imposed) at £14,485,000, which was added to the comforts or deducted from the privations of the country, and the increase in the revenue had covered the whole amount of remissions. Yet the Government now invited the House to retrace its steps, and to impose indirect taxes upon articles consumed by the labouring classes. To say, however, that the duties on tea and sugar should not be imposed was to say there should be a greater deficiency; this, therefore, increased his desire to support the resolution of Mr. Disraeli, which was in entire conformity with the pledge given regarding the income-tax. Towards the close of his speech, Mr. Gladstone repeated that, if the present motion was lost, he should propose one on the subject of the increasing expenditure; considering that the present course undermines the country's credit, honour, and safety.

MR. WILSON replied. He denied the disposition to augment the indirect taxes. The very person who proposed to increase the sugar-duties and suspend the fall of the tea-duties was Mr. Gladstone, in 1853-54. He re-examined the figures to show that the estimated income of 1858-59 was £62,300,000; while the expenditure, about the same with that of 1853-54, might be taken at £55,800,000, showing a margin of seven or eight millions. Mr. Wilson bestowed much argument to show the fallacy of relying on prospective estimates; and, as an example, he showed that one deficiency—a deficiency of £1,500,000—arose from disappointment in the produce of Mr. Gladstone's succession-duty—£500,000 this year, instead of £2,000,000.

MR. LAING declared it high time that every reformer should insist on reduction of expenditure; and was for sending back the Minister, as in 1848, to produce a better budget.

On the motion of Mr. JAMES M'GREGOR, the debate was adjourned.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.
THE DIVORCE BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in consequence of an appeal from Lord Lyndhurst and Campbell, postponed the second reading of the Divorce Bill till Tuesday, the 2nd of March.

THE TESTAMENTARY BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then brought forward the Testamentary Bill, and, having recapitulated at great length the various points of the measure, moved that the bill be read a second time.

Lord ST. LEONARD'S objected to the measure, because it virtually placed all the testamentary jurisdiction of the country in the hands of the Lord Chancellor. Again, he objected to the bill, because it deprived the heir-at-law of rights which had accrued to him from time immemorial. In committee he should certainly move such alterations as seemed requisite to make the bill more complete and successful.

Lord LYNDHURST meant to have spoken at length against the bill; but, on looking round the House, he found there was just one-third of a peer to each bench; and, as he did not care to address empty benches, he should reserve his observations for a future occasion.

Lord CAMERON had the same disinclination; but, as he was forced to be absent on circuit, he must speak now, or not at all. He must confess that he was not at all satisfied with the scheme of the Lord Chancellor, which amounted to nothing more or less than this, that every contested will cause was to become a Chancery suit. The Lord Chancellor should recollect that every one did not regard the Court of Chancery with such favourable eyes as he did; in fact, he should bear in mind that great jealousy existed of that court. Having entered the protest against the bill, he only hoped that it would be referred to a select committee.

Lord WYNSLEYDALE said that he approved the principle of the bill, but that he thought the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor to preside over the Court a very doubtful advantage.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then replied, remarking that many of the objections made to the bill might be surmounted in committee.

The bill was then read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. JOHN MCGREGOR.

On the motion of Mr. HAYTER, a new writ was ordered to issue for Glasgow in the room of Mr. John McGregor, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

THE NEUCHÂTEL CONFERENCE.

Lord PALMERSTON, replying to Mr. Kinnaird, stated that no date had as yet been fixed for the meeting of a conference on the Neuchâtel question. He gave reasons for anticipating a favourable result to the efforts that would be made at accomplishing some pacific solution of the difficulty.

THE BUDGET.

The adjourned debate on the Budget was resumed by Mr. JAMES MCGREGOR, who supported the amendment proposed by Mr. Disraeli, on the ground, chiefly, that the estimates of expenditure were, in his opinion, extravagantly high, and could be reduced to more moderate proportions if the Government were subjected to Parliamentary compulsion.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL believed that the financial scheme of the Government had been unjustly impugned. Addressing himself to the speech of Mr. Gladstone, he remarked that the Right Hon. Member had shown infinite anxiety for the safety of the understanding, or compact, which he had himself concluded in 1853. Subsequent events had involved the country in many difficulties, in spite of which the present Chancellor of the Exchequer had sincerely endeavoured to make the best possible arrangement for the ultimate fulfilment of the compact so far as regarded the extinction of the income-tax. The retention of a certain proportion of duty on tea and sugar, as well as of the income-tax itself, proved, in his opinion, that the Government were honest in their promises of final redemption, and also showed that they were anxious to keep the revenue in a sound condition of equilibrium with the expenditure. He saw no reason why the House should not assent to the Ministerial Budget, but enlarged upon the necessity of speedily calling up for review their policy with respect to the war against Persia, and the hostilities at Canton.

Mr. BENTINCK was not prepared to support either the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer or the resolution of Mr. Disraeli. He could not consent to vote money until he knew for what purpose, and he moved that the debate be adjourned, with the ulterior object of suspending the decision of the House until after the decision upon the Army, Navy, and Ordnance Estimates in a Committee of Supply.

Mr. MILNES defended the Chancellor of the Exchequer against the strictures of Mr. Gladstone, who, he thought, had been guilty of injustice.

Sir J. TYRRELL, after some sarcastic allusions to the course taken by Mr. Gladstone, pronounced an eulogium upon Lord Palmerston, and declared he would join in no attempt to displace him. He should vote, he said, for the motion of Mr. BENTINCK.

Mr. Wilkinson opposed, and Mr. Liddell supported the amendment.

Mr. J. PHILLIMORE was unable to understand what Mr. Gladstone really wished, as he had not said a syllable upon that point. If his expressions, however, were equivocal, his purpose, he thought, was clear—namely, by unjust and invidious representations to bring himself into power; but it would, he said, require tenfold his ability, his confidence, and his experience, to induce the country to follow so unsafe a guide and so unpropitious a partisan.

Mr. WHITESTOCK thought the speech of Mr. Phillimore came with an ill grace from him. He (Mr. Whitestock) considered that the ministerial arrangements required revision, and accused the Chancellor of the Exchequer of having practised deception with respect to the tea and sugar duties.

Sir F. BARING cordially supported the Chancellor's scheme of finance. He gave the Government credit for having accomplished the utmost amount of prudent reduction, and yet maintained the revenue of the country on a sound basis. Reviewing Mr. Gladstone's speech, he remarked that the conclusions to which it pointed were of the most indefinite character. It was difficult even to discover whether that Right Hon. Member did or did not approve of the remission of the war income tax, but the impression left by his address was that he would have preferred retaining it for at least another year.

Mr. WALPOLE insisted upon the expediency of settling the expenditure of the country before going into Committee of Ways and Means. It was not only in the military and naval establishments that a reduction of expenditure ought to be looked for, but still more in our civil departments. He was not for undue reductions; but when the fact was, that our expenditure was now £10,000,000 more than that required four years before the war commenced, it was impossible, he said, to deal with the subject properly unless the reasons of this expenditure were analysed. Adverting to the "compact" of 1853, respecting the extinction of the income-tax, Mr. Walpole declared that the House could not deviate from that settlement without committing an indefensible breach of faith with the public. The honour of Parliament was involved in the performance of this contract.

Mr. CARDWELL observed that the irresistible inference from the conflict of conclusions drawn from the same premises in the debate was that the motion was not well devised to bring out plainly and intelligibly the opinion of the House. Those who were determined to enforce economy should not vote for a dilatory motion, but should go into a Committee of Ways and Means, where, when asked to vote in time of peace duties which pressed upon the poorer classes of the community, the House might give effect to their views of economy by refusing to impose those duties—replenishing the Exchequer without impoverishing the people. He should vote for going into committee.

Mr. GIBSON believed that if Parliament sanctioned the expenditure of the present year it would lay a foundation for a deficiency in future years, and lead to the gradual subversion of the policy of 1842. He was for maintaining as part of the ordinary revenue of the country a fair and moderate income-tax, believing it to be the keystone of a free commercial policy. If the House should be firm in rejecting this Budget he had no doubt that the Government would reconsider it, and bring in one founded upon a reduced expenditure.

Mr. NEWDEGATE would not consent to vote the proposed duties for three years until he had an opportunity of sifting the expenditure. He should support the motion for adjourning the debate.

Sir C. WOOD objected to the motion of Mr. Disraeli as merely obstructive, and complained of the language which Mr. Gladstone had employed in the lecture he had addressed to his late colleagues. He denied that there had been any compact or engagement on the subject of the income-tax binding under altered circumstances. Parliament had therefore to decide whether the tax should or should not be continued. He then reviewed the arguments of Mr. Gladstone, which he contrasted with his policy when in office, and explained and justified the financial calculations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, he said, had acted upon the same principles as Mr. Gladstone in 1853, and who had nevertheless been attacked by him with acrimony and violence, and in terms hardly fit to be used by one gentleman to another. The charge against the Government was the possibility of a deficiency in 1858-59, and for this no remedy had been proposed. With regard to the estimates for the present year, he believed it to be impossible to reduce them further. He believed they would be smaller next year, but he would not pledge himself. The Government would do all they could, but he repudiated any contract or engagement.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in explanation, disclaimed all intention to impute any thing dishonourable to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or unbecoming his high character and position.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in a counter-explanation, said that the language of Mr. Gladstone did convey to his mind very distinctly that he had before the House a statement that was deceptive.

The House at first divided upon Mr. BENTINCK's motion for an adjournment of the debate, which was negatived by 477 to 25. A second division took place upon Mr. Disraeli's resolution, which was negatived by 286 to 206.

The House then went into committee, but progress was ordered to be reported before any resolution was passed.

The Commons Enlosure Bill passed through committee, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE PROCEEDINGS AT CANTON.

The Earl of DERBY moved a series of resolutions condemning the recent hostile proceedings at Canton. The grounds, he contended, upon which the British authorities had acted, namely, the seizure of a pirate ship on board of the lorcha Arrow, were not legally valid, while their subsequent conduct, leading as it did to the direct extremities of violence and bloodshed, was politically a blunder, and morally a crime. The first and chief point to be decided was whether the lorcha Arrow was a British vessel within the meaning of the treaty, and legally entitled to carry the British flag. He contended that she was a Chinese-built ship, captured by pirates, recaptured by the Chinese, sold afterwards by the Chinese, and ultimately bought, owned, and manned by Chinese. The Noble Lord then proceeded to contend that, whatever doubt there might be as to whether the flag was flying in the Arrow at the time of the seizure of the crew, there could be no doubt that the Arrow had no legal right to carry that flag, and in support of that view he adduced two statements of Sir J. Bowring allowing that the license had expired before the seizure. Passing on to the claim of British subjects to free admission into the city of Canton, he admitted that the treaty of 1842 conferred that right; and, he had no doubt that throughout this part of the transaction our Plenipotentiary had taken a correct view, while the Chinese officers had been altogether in error. The only question that could arise was as to the policy of pressing the right at that particular moment. This, especially considering that the claim of free entrance into Canton had been dormant so long, he emphatically denounced; animadverting severely on the conduct of Sir John Bowring, who, said his Lordship, was possessed with a monomania on the subject of his own admission to Canton, and who would not consider any sacrifice too great to effect that object. The conduct of Sir J. Bowring had been governed by one absorbing idea—viz. his own official reception into Canton, in which the original cause of complaint respecting the Arrow was speedily lost. Strongly condemning the arrogant and disrespectful tone exhibited by the English authorities in the correspondence which had passed on this subject, Lord Derby proceeded to say that every overture of peace by the Chinese had been evaded; and then in an eloquent oration, appealed to the Bench of Bishops to come forward and vindicate the cause of religion, humanity, and civilisation, from the outrage which has been inflicted upon it by the British representatives in Canton. But, in any case, he turned with unshaken confidence to the hereditary Peers, and called upon them not to tolerate upon light and trivial grounds, the capture of commercial vessels, the destruction of forts belonging to a friendly country, the bombardment of an unoffending city, and the shedding of the blood of unwarlike and innocent people, without warrant of law and without moral justification.

The Earl of CLARENDON vindicated the conduct of Sir John Bowring, Consul Parkes, and Admiral Seymour, whose proceedings he considered to have been perfectly justifiable; and even spoke in terms of praise of Mr. Parkes's moderation. The Noble Earl contended that the license under which the Arrow had hoisted the British flag was perfectly legal; nor had the Arrow forfeited her license, because, although the term had expired, the vessel was still at sea, and therefore still entitled under the terms of the ordinance to bear the British flag. Respecting the resolutions proposed by Lord Derby, the Foreign Secretary urged that they conveyed an unjust censure upon public servants abroad, and would result most disadvantageously to the public service by leading to the conclusion that no representative of this country in any part of the world could, under any circumstances of provocation or injury, interpose effectually for the protection of British subjects and interests. He urged the House to abstain from lending their sanction to so dangerous a doctrine.

Lord LYNDHURST had carefully perused the papers upon the table, and had come to the conclusion that the proceedings out of which this unfortunate dispute arose could not be justified upon any principles either of law or of reason. As it could not be proved that the Chinese were to inform the British authorities before seizing a lorcha on board a Chinese ship, the whole point turned on the question, was the Arrow a British ship? He denied that it was a British ship, and further demonstrated that, even if it was clothed with the privileges of a British ship, as against ourselves, no law, ordinance, or register could give those privileges as against foreigners. It was evident that Sir J. Bowring had acted throughout upon one fixed idea—viz. his own official reception into Canton, as immediately after the rupture he lost sight of the case of the Arrow, and confined himself solely to demanding the fulfilment of the treaty of 1842. He heartily concurred in the sentiments expressed by his Noble Friend (Lord Derby), and would cordially support his motion.

The LORD CHANCELLOR maintained that the Chinese had perpetrated a legal infringement of the treaty, and having persisted in their own wrong, were answerable for all the consequences. He wished to impress upon their Lordships that if an insult was offered to the British flag which the British authorities could not overlook without loss of character, the evil which might happen ought to be attributed to those who offered the insult, and not to the British authorities, at home or abroad.

Earl GREY could not conceive any doctrine more dangerous than that subordinate officers, who might not be persons of easy temper, might be allowed to resort to offensive measures without reference to the home Government. He maintained that the Arrow was not a British vessel in any sense of the term, and such, from first to last, had been the argument of the Chinese. He dwelt on the scandal to Christianity, the sufferings of the innocent Chinese, and the injury to ourselves, which must inevitably follow proceedings which he designated as inhuman. He reproved the Government for adopting the acts of Sir J. Bowring, and charged their Lordships not to become responsible for the blood already shed, but to avoid the implication by voting for the resolution of Lord Derby.

The Duke of ARGYLL vindicated the conduct of the Government. On the motion of the Earl of CARNARVON, the debate, at twelve o'clock, was adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FRANCHISE.

Sir J. WALMSLEY, in moving for a select committee to consider and report upon the most practical means for lessening the existing inequalities in our representative system, and for extending to the unfranchised a share of political power, urged the necessity for this inquiry, and the reasons why the House should take the subject into consideration. Out of a population of 28,000,000, there being 5,500,000 adult males, only 1,000,000 were electors, and among these coercion and influence exerted, he said, a restrictive effect. Besides the restrictions upon the franchise, and the existence of nomination boroughs, there were inequalities in the system which called for correction.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.

Sir G. STICKLAND opposed the motion, believing that the ostensible object concealed a dangerous infringement of the constitutional system.

M. STAFFORD also opposed the motion, as did Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, who could not for the life of him understand what the mover expected from the committee. He was not prepared to insult the 4,500,000 disfranchised by sending their demands and claims to a select committee, like a railway or a cemetery. The question should be discussed in the House in the light of day.

Mr. WARREN having spoken in opposition to the motion, and Mr. W. J. Fox in its support.

Lord PALMERSTON remarked upon the objections urged against the proposition by the most consistent members of the liberal party. Their objections, he said, furnished sufficient ground for his own refusal to accede to the motion. On the question of merits, he observed that a select committee was a very inadequate tribunal to investigate so important a subject as the electoral franchise.

On a division there appeared—For the motion, 73; against, 190—117.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

On the motion of Mr. BENTINCK, a select committee was appointed to inquire into the causes of accidents on railways, and into the possibility of removing any such causes by further legislation.

THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION.

Mr. NAFFER called attention to the subject of the Franklin Expedition, urging a further and complete search.

Captain SCOBELL supported the proposal for another expedition, which, however, was opposed by Admiral WALCOTT, who was convinced that no chance remained of finding any of the survivors of the Franklin crew.

Sir C. WOOD said he concurred in this view, and no further expedition would therefore be sent out.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Mr. HORSMAN stated, in reply to Mr. Bagwell, that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce any measure this Session for the establishment of reformatory schools for Ireland, but to wait and see the working of such establishments in England.

SEA-COAST FISHERIES BILL.

Mr. M'MAHON moved the second reading of this bill. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND objected to its second reading, because this bill, if passed, would leave the Irish fisheries unprotected, and said he would, therefore, move its rejection. This bill proposed to interfere with the authority of the Board of Commissioners, whose regulations had worked beneficially for the increase of the trade, in a manner that he could not yield his assent.

Colonel DUNNE objected to this bill. The acts in force had considerably improved the fisheries. The great evil was that fish was taken that ought not to be, and in an improper manner, in the estuaries.

Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Bowyer, and Captain Scobell supported the second reading.

Mr. Napier, Mr. Grogan, Mr. G. Butt, Mr. Meagher, Lord Nass, and Mr. Bellew opposed the second reading.

Mr. M'MAHON replied, contending that the bill had not been discussed on its merits. So long as he had a seat in that House, he would never consent to the Irish fishermen being deprived of their freedom to fish the Irish seas without paying rent, or being subject to certain fines.

After some further discussion, the House divided. The numbers were—For the second reading, 10; against it, 185. The bill was thus lost by a majority of 175.

JUDGMENTS IN EXECUTION BILL.

The House went into committee on this bill.

Colonel DUNNE complained of the number of amendments proposed to be made in the bill, which rendered it almost unintelligible.

Mr. CRAWFORD explained the effect of the numerous amendments on the bill, and asked the committee to proceed with the bill, when he would have it re-printed and brought up with the report.

Mr. Hughes, Mr. G. Butt, the Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Napier, Mr. Clive, Mr. M'Mahon, Mr. S. Warren, Sir E. Perry, Mr. Dunlop, and Mr. Whitehead addressed the House on the nature of an amendment of the Attorney-General for Ireland, which was of a legal character, whether judgment should be enforced on a memorial of it or on a copy.

The committee then divided, when the numbers were—For the amendment, 99; against it, 77; majority, 22.

The House then resumed.

Mr. CRAWFORD said he should consider whether he would proceed with the bill, the amendment having destroyed its principle.

The Commons Enlosure Bill was read a third time and passed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND obtained leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to bankruptcy and insolvency in Ireland.

(The following appeared in a portion only of our Last Week's Impressions.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIA.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved a resolution declaring that the system under which her Majesty's Indian territory is now administered is no longer suitable to the condition and prospects of that vast empire, or for the development of its resources and the improvement and welfare of its inhabitants. He supported his motion by describing the cumbersome and inefficient machinery by which India is at present governed, insisting that the time had arrived when the administration of that country should be withdrawn from the grasp of a mercantile company, and placed upon a simpler and more practical basis.

The Duke of ARGYLL defended the Indian Government, commenting upon the great progress already effected, and the remedial measures now in contemplation for the benefit of the inhabitants of our oriental empire.

The motion was negatived without a division, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TREATY BETWEEN RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Layard, said he had no knowledge of the treaty reported to have been concluded between Russia and Persia on the 5th of January.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. LOCKE KING moved for leave to bring in a bill assimilating the county franchise to the borough franchise in England and Wales, by giving the right of voting to all occupiers of tenements rated at the annual value of £10. The Hon. Member contended at much length for the expediency and justice of extending the franchise to the large class whom his proposed bill would allow to enjoy electoral privileges.

Lord PALMERSTON declined to consent even to the introduction of a measure which there would be no chance of fairly discussing and passing during the present session. He had no objection to extend the county franchise, upon any judicious plan that might be suggested. The present bill was, however, in his opinion, faulty in many respects. With regard to the principle of the measure, he did not concur in the argument that the right of voting should be the same in boroughs and counties. He thought that there were reasons for maintaining a distinction; that each represented different interests in the community.

After some remarks favourable to the bill from Mr. HEADHAM,

Mr. DUNCOMBE professed his readiness to support any measure that lowered the franchise and armed the lower classes with better weapons by which to defend themselves against the oppressions of the superior order.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL saw no reason why the question should be postponed. He observed that the Government seemed to act upon the principle of shirking all subjects of importance or delicacy. The present session would, he thought, afford an available opportunity for discussing and carrying a large measure of parliamentary reform; and he was ready not only to vote for the introduction of this bill, but to support its second reading.

Mr. BENTINCK accused Lord John Russell of acting from party motives.

Lord J. RUSSELL briefly replied, and was defended also by Mr. T. Duncombe and Sir J. Graham, who announced that he had surrendered the principle of "fixity," and was ready to support any safe and prudent extension of the franchise. He would vote for the introduction of this measure.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT opposed the bill, partly because he disapproved of some of its provisions, but chiefly on account of the position of the Government, and the existing antagonism of parties in the House. He thought the present Government had exercised a wise discretion in not bringing forward questions which, in the existing position of parties, it might be difficult to carry, and he did not wish to put them into greater difficulties.

After a few words from Mr. ROEBUCK, who declared himself astounded at Mr. Sidney Herbert's sentiments, the House divided—For leave to bring in the bill, 179; against, 192—13.

MAYNOOTH.

Mr. SPOONER renewed his annual attack upon the Maynooth grant by proposing a resolution that the House should "resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the acts for the endowment of the College of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any endowment out of the Consolidated Fund, due regard being had to vested rights and interests." He reiterated the arguments which he had so often presented against the continuance of the grant, and exhorted the House to purge itself from all complicity with an act that was, as he contended, a national sin.

Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. Bowyer, Sergeant O'Brien, Mr. Moore, Mr. H. Drummond, Sergeant Shee, and Lord Palmerston having spoken against the motion, and Mr. Kendall, Mr. T. Chambers, Mr. Newdegate, and others, in its favour, Mr. Spooner replied, and the House divided—For the motion, 159; against, 167—8.

MINISTERS' MONEY.

Mr. FAGAN obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the tax imposed in lieu of ministers' money on eight corporate towns in Ireland.

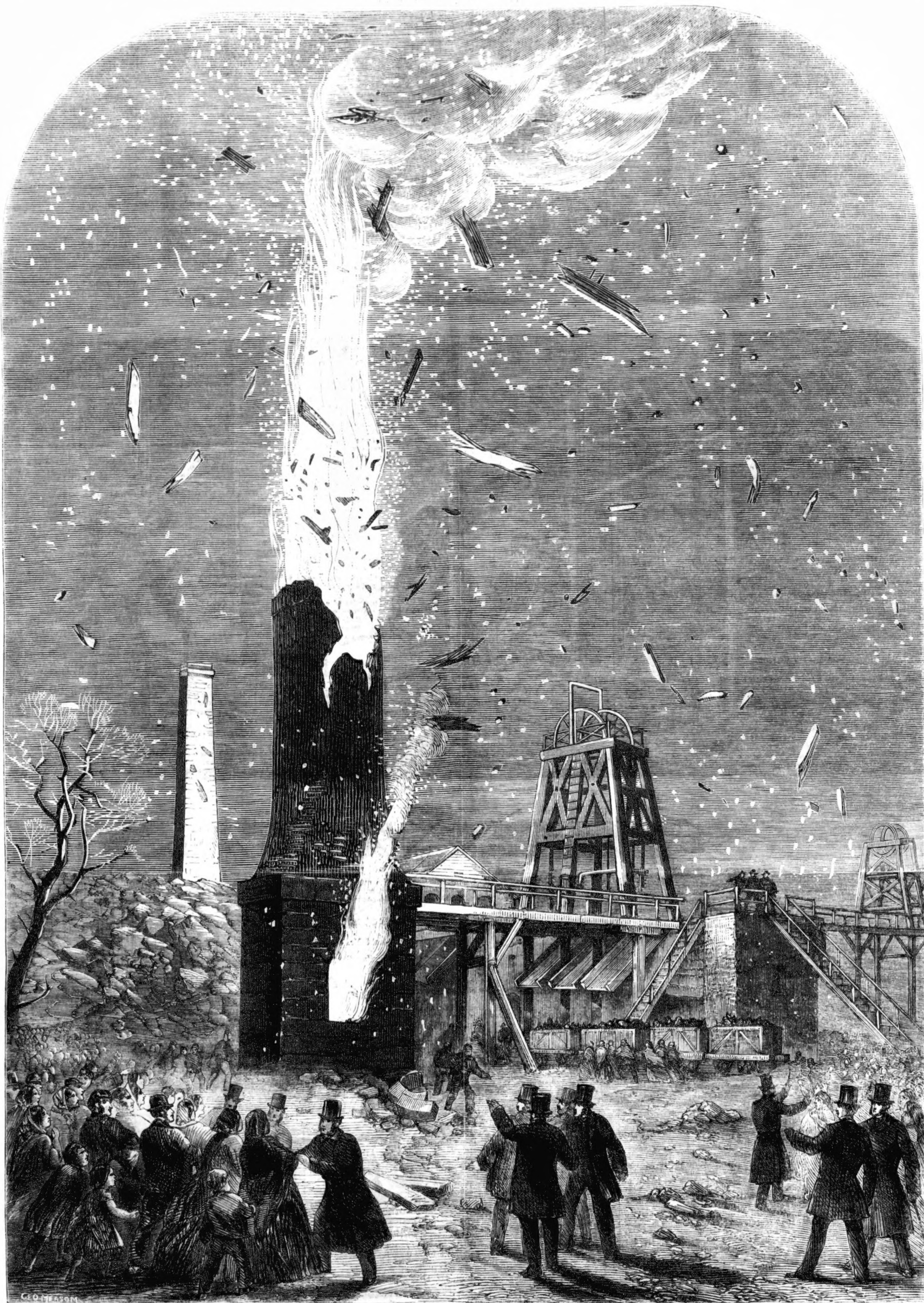
Mr. DUFFY IN ORDER.—In the Melbourne Legislature considerable amusement has been occasioned by Mr. Gavin Duffy. By virtue of his parliamentary experience he had been lecturing the raw levies about the "usages of the Imperial Parliament," and accordingly it was gratifying to the lectured to see their preceptor at fault, and (on a highly important question) voting by mistake with the side he had spoken against. He claimed, however, to have his vote recorded, not according to the side of the house at which he sat during the division, but with the "ayes." While preferring this claim he startled the house by addressing the Speaker sitting, and with his hat on, the practice, as he explained (on being called to order for it, not only permitted, but enjoined by the "usages of the Imperial Parliament.") [He carried both points—kept his hat on and g-t his vote (which turned the scale) recorded with the "ayes."

THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE ANALYSTS.—The "Melbourne Argus" gives a synopsis of the nativity and opinions of the members of the Lower House. Of the number four are Australians, twenty-seven English, sixteen Irish, and twelve Scotch. Thirty-six belong to the Church of England, six are Roman Catholics, seven Presbyterians, one Methodist, and seven Independents. In favour of state aid there are thirty-three; against it, twenty-two; doubtful four. There are twelve ministerial and official members, thirty-two independent, and fifteen anti-ministerialists. There are nineteen merchants and tradesmen, ten barristers and attorneys, seven government officers, sixteen landowners, three medical men, three journalists, two farmers, and two squatters.

THE CIRCUMLOCUTION OFFICE.—Alluding to the cost of some £5,000,000 for the conveyance of troops which appears in the year's estimates, the "Dublin Mail" narrates the following anecdote apropos of the military goods traffic question:—"During the war, it was thought necessary to convey some military stores from the Tower to Queenstown, for embarkation there. Those goods were carried in wagons from the Tower to Euston Square terminus, thence by railway to Liverpool, and thence by steamer to Dublin. They were carted through this city to King's Bridge terminus, brought along the Great Southern and Western Railway to Cork, and thence to Queenstown, we believe, by water. The expense of this mode of transit was, we have been informed, £8 10s. per ton. At the very same time a steamer sailed for Cork from Hartley's steam-wharf, London Bridge, regularly every Thursday, by which those military stores might have been conveyed into Queenstown harbour for 30s. per ton!"

MERCANTILE MUNICIPALITY.—Messrs. John Crossley and Sons, carpet manufacturers at Dean Clough, near Halifax, recently subscribed £1,500 towards the fund for defraying the debt on the new hall of the Halifax Mechanics' Institution. Mr. John Crossley has, within the last few weeks, undertaken the erection of a new college at Halifax, at a cost of £20,000. A magnificent public park, adorned with shrubbery, terraces, walks, fountains, and sculpture from Italy, to be opened in August next, is the gift of Mr. Frank Crossley to the town of Halifax. A handsome pile of almshouses, twenty-three in number, has recently been built at endowed by the late-named gentleman.

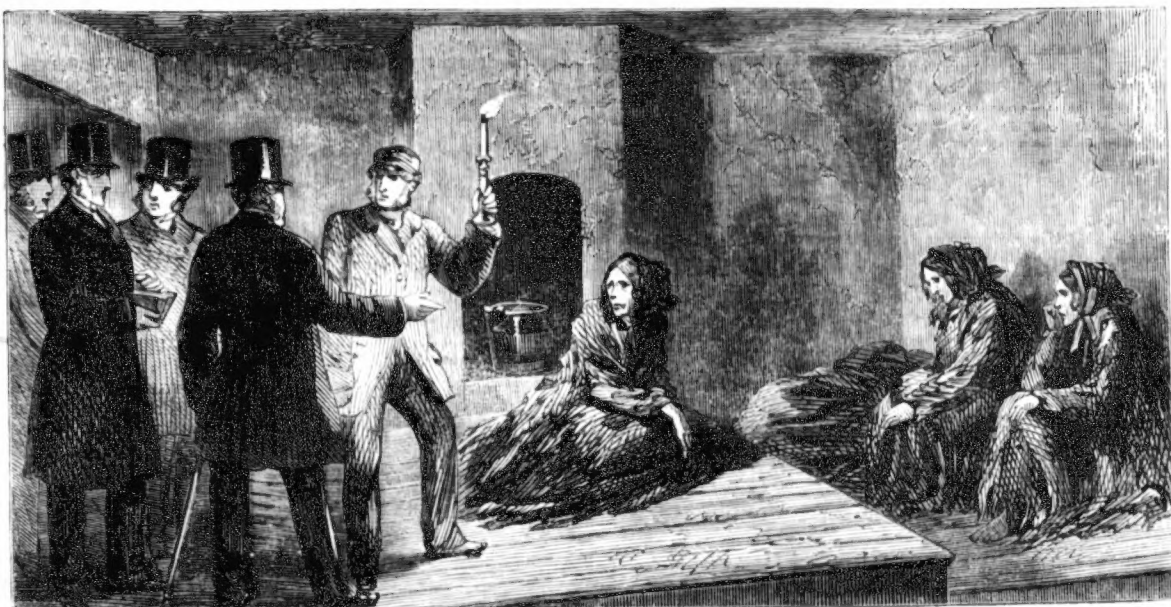
TREATMENT OF THE INSANE.—At a meeting of the Marylebone Board of Guardians recently, a report was read from the lunacy commissioners, who had visited the insane wards, complaining of their unsatisfactory state. The rooms appropriated to the insane are described as most inconvenient and ill-ventilated; they were found ill-furnished, dirty, untidy, and destitute of ordinary comforts. The commissioners recommended the immediate removal of the pauper children into the country, and the appropriation of the wards to the insane and weak-minded patients. The guardians ordered the commissioners' report to be printed, and a special committee was appointed to consider the same.



THE LUND HILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION: THE AIR SHAFT ON FIRE.—(SEE PAGE 131.)

THE HOUSELESS POOR.

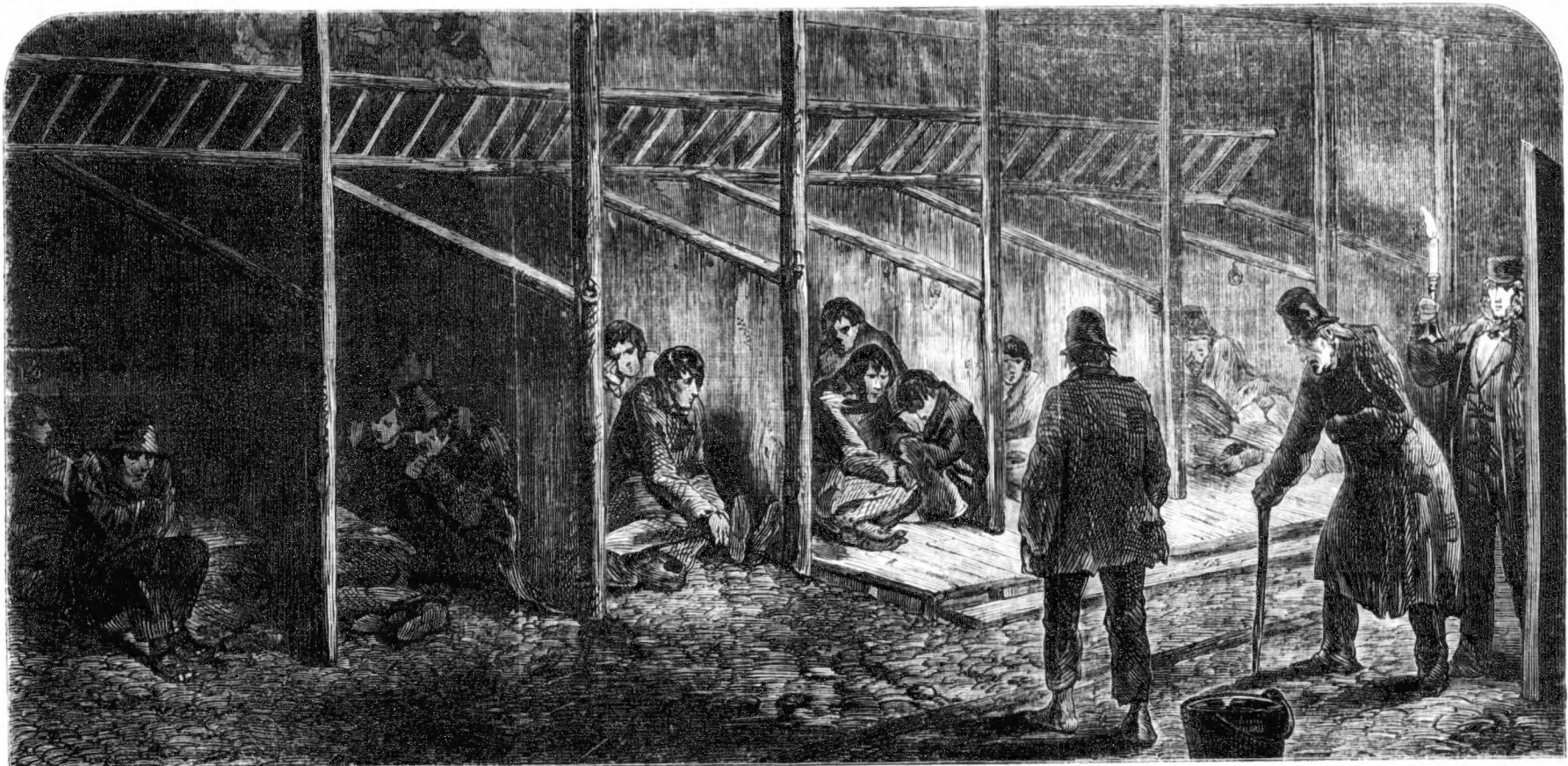
It is one thing, says a writer in the "Times," to read in a police report that a pauper has been rejected from a casual ward, and quite another to witness the scene of his rejection. Who can properly describe upon paper the squalid misery of the poor wretch who is sent away at night, faint and weary, from the inhospitable gate of the asylum in which he had hoped to find at least that small quantum of food and shelter which would keep life and soul together until morning? Who can adequately supply the horror and indignation which such a spectacle is calculated to inspire? It should be added that persons occupying official positions are peculiarly subject to deception. It seems to be an almost unavoidable incident of their position that they regard with distrust and suspicion any account which does not come to them through a strictly official channel. A tale of ill-usage must pass through half-a-dozen mouths, all more or less interested in qualifying it and colouring it, before it reaches their ears. For the truth is always "cooked." The Lord Mayor has had the sense to perceive this, and the



THE VISIT OF THE LORD MAYOR TO THE WOMEN'S CASUAL WARD OF THE WEST LONDON UNION.

out, upon inspection, that the Casual Ward at Battle Bridge was all that could be desired. The mere fact that the Casual Ward was at such a distance from the actual workhouse, implied that the poor creatures who applied for a night's shelter, sometimes late in the night, and in the last degree of exhaustion from hunger, fatigue, and sickness of heart, were compelled, after they had passed the ordeal of inspection and received their tickets of admission, to set out upon a fresh pilgrimage through the streets of London before they reached the spot where they might hope to rest their weary limbs, with the prospect of a crust of bread or of a modicum of gruel in the morning. Still, had the Casual Paupers' refuge, when he reached it at last, been such a place as was fit for the reception of a human being, there would have been the less to be said.

The Lord Mayor and Recorder, as soon as they had received the information, drove off to Battle Bridge. They found the Casual Ward of the West London Union; and what building do our readers suppose had been selected for the purpose? It was a stable—a twelve-stall stable; with no other prepara-

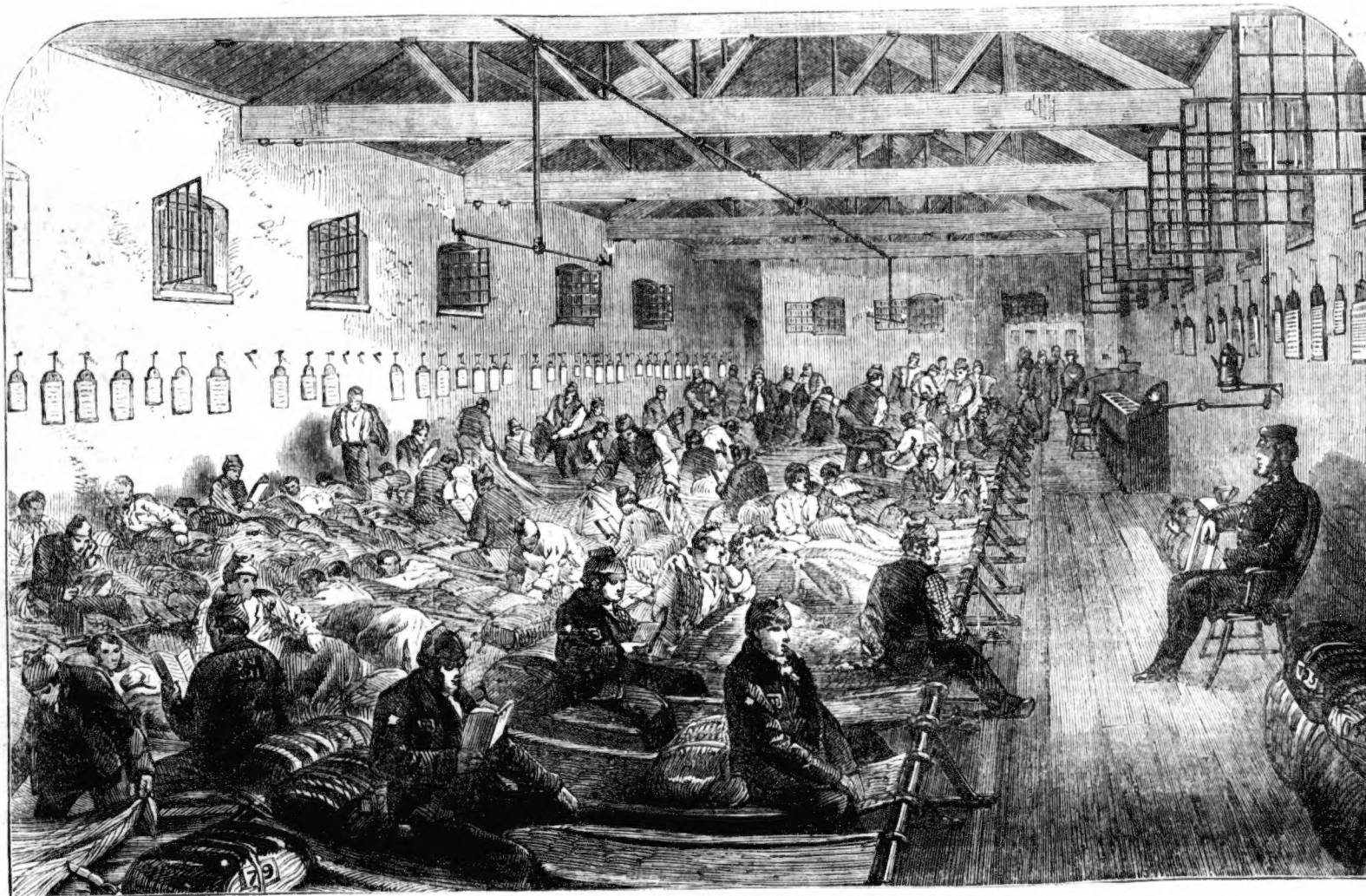


MEN'S CASUAL WARD, WEST LONDON UNION.

spirit to act upon his impression. He appears to have become aware of the fact that, especially at this season of the year, great hardship is endured by the unfortunate creatures who are driven by poverty to make application for temporary assistance at the doors of the London workhouses; and accordingly, in company with the Recorder, Mr. Under-Sheriff Anderton, and Mr. Bunning, the City Architect, he resolved one evening to visit the West London Union Workhouse, when his presence was least expected, and to satisfy himself as to the condition of the casual ward above all things.

So said, and so done. The dignitaries arrived at the workhouse, not without some little astonishment upon the part of the officials at the unexpected visitation. There is no mention made of the result as far as the preliminary ceremony was concerned, for it was merely preliminary to the real object of the visit. "But where is the Casual Ward?" "The Casual Ward?" "Oh, ah, yes—the Casual Ward is not here." "Where is it, then?" "Why, at Battle Bridge, two miles and a half from here."

This was a pretty state of things to begin with, even if it should turn



THE DORMITORY AT THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION, COLD BATH FIELDS.

tion for the reception of human beings than a fire, round which some few men were huddled. The place was totally destitute of either straw or bedding of any description whatever. This, in the opinion of the parish authorities, was the best lodging they could contrive for the casual poor consistently with the discharge of their duties to the ratepayers. Now, we are not of those who require for the casual poor such accommodation as a foreign Prince might meet with at Mivart's or the Clarendon. There is, however, reason in all things; and there can be no doubt that every casual ward in London should be sufficiently large, and reasonably well warmed and ventilated, and that there should be a distinction between the women's ward and the ward for the men. This is a matter of first principle, upon which there can be no question.

The poor creatures, in answer to inquiries, stated that upon entering the building a small portion of bread had been given them; but that it was the custom to turn them out in the morning without anything to eat unless they first broke a quantity of stones, of which there was a large heap in the yard. The Lord Mayor and his friends next entered an adjoining cattle-shed, where they found two destitute women huddled together on a rug, lying on the bare ground, almost perished with cold, and without either fire or food. When they had concluded their inspection, the party of visitors went off to the City Jail, at Holloway, where they found 455 prisoners well lodged in separate apartments, with plenty of bedding, blankets, and comforts of every kind. Well might the Lord Mayor say, "If the poor were treated in such a way as that, was it not natural that they should resort to crime rather than submit to it?"

The guardians of the poor of the West London Union, scandalised by the publicity which had been given by the Lord Mayor's visit, subsequently waited upon his Lordship at the Mansion House, with a "representation" of the facts. Mr. Woolterton, who spoke for the deputation, said in concluding the representation, that the ward which the Lord Mayor had been shown was only used for the lodging of tramps, and not able-bodied and regular poor, who had suitable accommodation provided for them: the tramps being persons of such condition, that fever and disease would be likely to result from their being supplied with bedding and mattresses. This, however, is an answer to only one part of the case, and not at all a conclusive one. If bedding and mattresses are out of the question, surely a little straw might be afforded, if only to keep up the ancient traditions of the stable. Nor does this plea of the guardians cover the disgrace of allowing starving men and women to tramp two miles out of the way to obtain a piece of bread. Besides, as the "Times" points out, the objection to supplying the poor creatures with a decent "shake down," may be overcome by adopting a plan common in Ireland. There it is the custom, when paupers present themselves for admission into the workhouses, to compel them to undergo a purification of hot water, and while they are undergoing this process, the clothes of which they have been stripped are flung into an oven, which is maintained at such a heat that nothing living may pass through it and retain life. These processes are not only of a sanitary nature, and therefore in some degree beneficial to the public at large, but they amount to a real act of charity to the poor wretches more particularly in question; and we recommend the plan to the consideration of those concerned.

Two of the engravings on the preceding page are representations of the Lord Mayor's visit to the Casual Wards of the West London Union, referred to above. The third engraving shows the interior of one of the comfortable dormitories at the House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields, after the men have retired for the night. Mr. Henry Mayhew, in Part VI. of the "Great World of London," thus describes the appearance of the dormitory in question, on the occasion of a visit paid by him to this prison:—"When we reached the dormitory, the men were nearly all lying down, some asleep, others stretched out on their backs, staring up at the timber roof, and all were covered over with their brown-red rugs. So silent was the room, it seemed like an immense dead-house—as if we had entered some huge 'morgue,' where some hundred corpses were laid out on the floor before us. Some of the men were sleeping with their clothes on, and as if they had thrown themselves down tired with the day's 'hard labour'; others, with their forms curled up till the knees nearly touched the chest, had stowed themselves away for the night, for under the head was the pillow of rolled-up clothes. As the evening progressed, some of the prisoners, who had been dozing with their clothes on, seemed to wake up and become aware that they had better prepare for the night's rest. So they got up slowly, like persons half-asleep, and began to undress themselves. It was a relief to see a human being stirring, for it proved that life existed in the prostrate crowd before us. As we peeped, at a later hour, through the little inspection-hole in the closed door of the dormitory, we could see those who were conversing together. One of the men was lying flat on his back, with his handkerchief raised to his mouth, and though the eye on the side towards the warder was shut as if in sleep, the other one was wide open, and kept on winking at his apparently slumbering neighbour, in a manner which showed that the two men were having a nice quiet chat together. The two warders, however, were not near enough to hear this infringement of the rule, and had we ourselves not advanced very silently to the inspection-hole, we probably should also have been deprived of the chance of witnessing it. There can, indeed, be no doubt that it is utterly absurd in a prison conducted on the silent system, with the special view of avoiding intercourse among the criminals, to herd together a hundred such men, and place them in exactly that position which is the most favourable for intercommunication."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—In West Kent there has been a decisive triumph for the Liberals, and a seat gained, by the return of Mr. C. W. Martin. The majority was 408.—Mr. Monsell was re-elected for the county of Limerick, on Wednesday, without opposition.—Mr. Gurdon Rebou, the Liberal candidate, has been returned for Colchester.

EXPLOSION ON SHIPBOARD.—On Friday week, an explosion of coal gas took place on board the barque Prince Philip, of Ostend, lying in the Tyne. The damage is very extensive. The decks of the vessel are blown up, fore and aft; two of the deck beams are broken; the cabin destroyed; and the round house, the residence of the men, shattered to pieces. Some of the crew have suffered very severely, and one of them is missing. He is supposed to have been blown overboard and drowned.

LIFEBOATS FOR THE COAST.—The National Lifeboat Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck has decided to place lifeboats on every point on the coast where it can be shown, first, that one is wanted in consequence of the frequency of wrecks in the locality; secondly, that an efficient crew can be found to man the boat; thirdly, that some local contributions will be raised to assist to pay for the erection of a boat-house, and the permanent maintenance of the lifeboat station.

FIRE IN WHITEFIELD'S TABERNACLE.—The spacious chapel, the first erected by the celebrated Whitefield, in Tottenham Court Road, was discovered to be on fire on Monday morning. The flames commenced in the boys' schools, parallel with the gallery; and, owing to the dry state of the timbers, the flames extended with more than usual rapidity; so that in less than a quarter of an hour after the fire was first seen the flames took a clear circuit round the interior of the roof. The fire was not extinguished until the roof of the chapel was burnt off, and serious damage done to the pews in the galleries and aisles by fire and water.

FALSE ALARM OF FIRE IN A PLACE OF WORSHIP.—On Sunday evening last, at the Oratory of St. Philip, at Brompton, about 3,000 people had assembled in the expectation of hearing Cardinal Wiseman preach. The service commenced with the chanting of a hymn, at the conclusion of which the Cardinal ascended the pulpit and commenced the delivery of his sermon. Suddenly, shrill cries arose of "Fire! fire!" filling the minds of all with consternation. Women went into hysterics and screamed loudly, children shrieked, and for several minutes a scene of the utmost terror and confusion was exhibited. Presently, however, it was seen that the alarm was perfectly groundless.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—The unfortunate shareholders and creditors of the Royal British Bank have escaped a new gulf. Mr. Marcus sought for leave to appeal to the House of Lords against the decision in Chancery in favour of the bankruptcy of the bank. The Lords-Justices of Appeal have rejected the application, but solely on the point of time—the application should be made on the instant, not after so much way had been made in declaring dividends, selling of property, &c., under the bankruptcy.

SEIZURE OF A PRIVATE DISTILLERY.—On Saturday morning last a seizure of an extensive private distillery took place in Neptune Court, Waltham. Some officers having effected an entrance into the suspected house, found a private distillery in full operation. There was no one in the house at the time, as those working there made their escape before the officers could gain an entrance. On the ground-floor was a large still, and on the first-floor another, in full operation.

SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON,

(Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet).

To be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times,"
ON MARCH 21.

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their Subscribers that they have now ready

A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED

MAP OF LONDON,

ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE,

With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and although it is an exact counterpart, not only as regards size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 6s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at

THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY NUMBER OF THE PAPER, NAMELY, 2½d., a price which, even in these days of cheapness, is without a parallel.

Specimens are now in the hands of the trade; and the Map itself will be issued with the "Illustrated Times" for March 21st. The enormous demand which is certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every letter-writer in the kingdom, makes it necessary that immediate orders should be given to the various Agents.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a Novel, entitled

THE BADDINGTON PEEAGE;

BEING HIS LORDSHIP'S LIFE.

A STORY OF THE BEST AND THE WORST SOCIETY.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA.

(AUTHOR OF "A JOURNEY DOWN NORTH," IN DICKENS'S "HOUSEHOLD WORDS.")

This tale, which is of powerful interest, will have the advantage of being illustrated in its more striking scenes by the graphic pencil of HARLOT K. BROWNE. One or more Chapters will be published weekly in the columns of the "Illustrated Times" until the whole is completed.

ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.

In the same number of the "Illustrated Times" will be published No. 1 of a series of

HIGHLY-FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE

after the
CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.

These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

TITLE-PAGE, INDEX, AND PREFACE

TO VOLUME THIRD OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

are now ready and may be procured of the Agents, Price ONE PENNY. Persons finding any difficulty in obtaining copies, will, on forwarding Two Stamps to this Office, receive the Title-sheet by return of Post.

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Are also ready. Price 2s. each.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1857.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

A SUMMARY of the recent Report of the Civil Service Commissioners has been going the round of the papers lately, and offers some queer points of interest. Our readers know that we look with much curiosity on the experiment of which competitive examination is the subject at present, so they will excuse us for saying a few words *apropos* of this Report to-day. We shall be having more news from China by-and-by, when that whole question will come before us; and, meanwhile, we care not readers will find Lord Derby's speech more interesting than our "leader" would be.

The special point we mean to direct attention to, *apropos* of this Report, is a peculiar one, and has never yet had justice done it. But first, a word on our general view of competition. We never held that plan up as a final and satisfactory system of getting men; we only advocate it as a highly useful and serviceable check on patronage, and as a machinery which may help us to a superior man now and again. There are many positions in life where book knowledge is of little consequence in the men you want; and to make it a test of the value of the whole man, would be the extreme of pedantry. For instance, the best sailor does not necessarily know most of his profession's literature, nor the best medical man, nor the best engineer. In either of these employments you could have no security that the man who stood an examination best on the subject-matter of them, would be the best man. His pluck, temper, tact, &c., could not be tested in such a way. And the civil servant requires such qualities also, and not only those more specially belonging to clerical work—as knowledge, style, cultivation. Indeed, in this literary age, we are all perhaps apt to overvalue accomplishments as distinct from character.

But, then, it is just because cultivation of the bookish kind has been made so much of in these modern times, that the possession of it is a kind of test of the possession of other qualities. A man of any superiority of intellect in our days is sure to have his attention turned to books, at least in some degree. If he knows nothing of them, he can scarcely know much of anything; for knowledge is not communicated orally to the degree that it used to be. If he knows nothing of them, he is likely to be dead to all intellectual subjects of interest; for traditions, ballads, and such things, are gradually ceasing to exist. All intellectual life has got into print—even to the injury of conversation, letter-writing, and preaching. Therefore, by testing a man's literary attainments, you test him in a very vital manner. You get a man by this process who has exercised his intellect and developed himself—who is morally certain to be superior to any other man who has grossly neglected the same sources of improvement. On the other hand, the regular blockhead, who might be appointed by a job, is fairly excluded by this test; for we certainly do not believe that any really superior man could grow up to twenty-one in our age, and remain unable to spell.

Let us now turn to the facts of this last civil service examination, as embodied in the summary above-mentioned. Out of "880 candidates," as the "Globe" tells us, "it is reported that no less than 425 were turned back for bad spelling alone." There is something comic in the kind of blunders in this department. One gentleman wrote "philosopher," "pholisper," another, "neighbour," "nebour." Mrs. Malaprop might have taken a hint from these aspirants to places in the public service. Their arithmetic seems to have been pretty well on a par with their orthography. Yet the service seems popular among our youth, since, for four situations, there were forty-six competitors.

Now, the special point of curiosity in the matter—which we promised to point out—is this: We hear a great deal about education, and the aim of many people is to spread it—as assuredly it ought to

be spread—among the poor; but what must be the state of education, judging from the above facts, among what are called the better classes? How comes a gentleman's son to be writing "bowels" "bowls?" And what chance is there of people's helping to educate the poor, who will not educate themselves? Thackeray has a humorous reference somewhere to the "spelling of dragoon officers, and we really fear there is some truth at the bottom of his fun. The chief absurdity is that such things should exist in a country which makes such a fuss about the general subject. Surely the leaders of the country should be educated first—a thing quite within their means—and that process would alone help to educate the people, through them, besides improving the general conduct of the affairs of the kingdom.

WILLIAM JOHNSTONE, STOKER.

MR. CHARLES KINGSLEY has written a book of "Greek Fairy Tales" for his children, under the seductive title of "The Heroes." There are few authors of the day, we are persuaded, who have the *cacothethos scribendi* a healthier form (let the paradox be pardoned) than the honest, earnest, and brilliant author of "Hypatia" and "Westward, ho!" We wish that he would apply his indefatigable pen in the composition of another book of tales for children of all ages—not fairy tales, but stories of real life, that can be vouched for by hundreds of living witnesses—that happened in our own time. And let him call this book "The Heroes" too; but let the Heroes be drawn from the "London Gazette" instead of Lemnæ prière; and we wager that last Tuesday's record of the services for which certain officers, soldiers and sailors of the British army, navy, and marine, have been rewarded with the "Victoria Cross—for Valour," will give him such materials for the eulogy of bravery and self-devotion as shall throw into shade the noblest strophe that ever poet sang upon the deeds of him who blinded the Cyclops, or of him who slew the Erymanthian boar.

It is enough to make a man mad with the Upper House of Talkers and the Lower House of Wordspinners, to see column after column of the great daily journal congested with their interminable and intolerable harangues; to hear them evoking the shadows of bygone perorations the banishes of moribund "party principles;" while the Heroes are squeezed into a corner column, and, for want of space, are so "cabined, cribbed, confined," that the "Times" cannot give them the roll of their achievements, but can only afford to enumerate their names. The Heroes who have done the deeds are dwarfed and docked in order that Noble Lords and Honourable Members may pullulate verbiage on the "way not to do it."

Pending Mr. Kingsley, the public must content themselves with the "Gazette," if they wish to know all about our English heroes decorated "for valour." They must go to the "Gazette" to know who William Johnstone, stoker, was. There is something extremely fascinating to us in this word "stoker." At the first blush, "William John tone, stoker," on the *Arrogant's* ship-books, is only suggestive of a coney, grimy, oil-smelling man in a flannel shirt, with the sleeves tucked up—a man doomed to a life-long trizze in an iron cage before a fiery furnace; and stoking, stoking, stoking, till the last grim stoker, Death, stokes him away for good and all. But in the "Gazette" this sable stoker shines far more refulgent—white and bright as though he were clad in the panoply of silver mail—as though his head-dress were a plumed helmet, and not a flannel cap—as though he bore a gleaming sabre in his hand, instead of a shovel. Henceforward William Johnstone is poetised—the chivalrous element asserts itself in the stoker—an. we have hopes for the future ennobility of drivers, "pointsmen," and porters, should opportunity serve, and there be found no more men of the boiler and the steam-chest made of stuff as stout and true as William Johnstone.

The "Stoker" stands forth conspicuously among the heroes, although his valour brought him no wound, although he earned his Victoria Cross neither in tented plain, nor soul-wearying trench, nor murderous assault. He did not, like Sergeant-Major John Grieve, cut off the head of a Russian trooper; nor, like Private John Perie, of the Sappers and Miners, "show his devotion in rescuing a wounded man from the Open;" nor, like Major Elton, of the Guards, rush into the Open under a scathing fire, and, to encourage his men to the erection of a defence, labour the bullet-strewn ground himself with pick and shovel; nor, like Private Anthony Palmer, the grenadier, charge singly on the enemy in defence of the Queen's colours, and save Sir C. Russell's life; nor, like gallant Midshipman Lucas, throw a smouldering shell overboard; nor, like scores of other brave men described, plant flags on mounds, capture deserters between cross-fires, crawl within a few yards of Russian sentries, watch over wounded officers and drive assailants away till succour came, carry scaling ladders, or jump into deep water (being wounded at the time) to cut the hawsers of boats. Yet, for coolness, determination, devotedness, and "pluck," the action in which this stoker was worthily associated with his officer, Lieutenant (now Commander) Bythesa, and for which he has been as worthily rewarded, is decidedly one of the most romantically conspicuous feats of personal heroism to be met with in the history of the late war.

It is a curious thing to moralise upon, that the deed by which Bythesa the Commander, and Johnstone the Stoker, have made themselves famous to all the world, was one that a century ago, under different circumstances, would have exposed them to the disagreeable "legal accident" of being hanged by the neck at Tyburn Tree till they were dead, and that even in this philanthropic age would have rendered their transportation beyond the seas for the term of their natural lives a matter of uncomfortable certainty. For the Commander and the Stoker—it is no use to mince the matter—robbed the Mail. Hearing that an aide-de-camp of the Emperor of Russia had landed at Wardo, in the Baltic, with despatches and mail-bags, the bold Bythesa determined on an act of heroic highway robbery. Permission being obtained from the Commander of the *Arrogant*, to this heroic Turpin was joined a generous Jerry Abershaw, in the person of Johnstone. They landed—but the story must be familiar to our readers—in disguise, and armed with trusty revolvers. They lay in ambush till the mail-bags with their military escort had passed by; then issuing from their retreat, they fell—these Paladins of felony—they two upon five men; vanquished them, and routed them utterly; took three prisoners—one and a half apiece; and returned triumphantly to the *Arrogant* with the mail-bags and the captives. If this be not heroism—in a cattle-lifting, horse-reiving, moss-trooping sense, we will admit—we know not where heroism abides. It was an act of deliberate, unflinching, self-sacrificing, and thoroughly English bravery. There was, withal, a dash of humour in the conception and execution; and the Russians were as plainly "sold" as that Red Indian who, painted, tomahawked, and rifled, met with Captain Ralph Stackpole, and thought to make small bones of him; but who was naturally confounded when that valiant ring-tailed roarer "licked him to death with his fists in the natural way!"

It is good to see that no "cold shade of aristocracy" has been thrown over William Johnstone's deservings, and that he stands on the roll "for valour" on equal terms with his Commander—on equal terms with "Peel" and "Elton," and "Le Courcy Hamilton"—with Baronets, and Lord's sons, and Brigadier-Generals, and Staff Officers. There is but one thought that weighs upon us. Does William Johnstone still stoke, or has he received the promotion he has so nobly earned? The "Victoria Cross," inestimable in its glory, is, intrinsically, but a cruciform piece of bronze. Has the brave stoker got any solid pudding besides the praise?

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE POST-OFFICE.—Upwards of 250,000 letters passed through the Post Office on Saturday, the 14th inst., St. Valentine's Day. According to custom, the Post-Office employes had refreshment, consisting of bread, beer, and beer, served out to them in the scolding room, whilst the out-door postmen had tickets supplied them to procure refreshment at different taverns.

THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF THE 2ND EUROPEANS. Left behind at Hydraad when the men marched down for embarkation to Persia, have, it is said, experienced the most cruel neglect from the authorities. They are left in utter destitution, and out of one hundred and twenty-four women and children, twenty-eight sank and died within six weeks.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

PRINCE ALBERT had a levee, on behalf of the Queen, at St. James's Palace, on Friday. His Royal Highness had another levee on the 27th and March 1st. The preparations have been made for the reception of the Countess of London.

THE INDICTION against the case of the Rev. Daniel O'Connell at St. James's and the Duke of Devonshire, has been removed, and there is prospect of the building being assigned to some useful account.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will hold their annual meeting at Salisbury this summer.

JOHN BROTHAM has left England for his seat near Cannes, in the south of France, in order to avoid the cholera winds of March. His Lordship had an interview with the Emperor at the Tuileries on Sunday.

SEVERAL FRENCH OFFICERS, it is said, have asked permission to serve with the Spanish expedition against Mexico.

THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE JURIDICAL SOCIETY took place on Monday evening. It was announced that several new members had joined the society, among whom were the Lord Chief Baron and Baron Unwin.

THE KING OF BAVARIA, who is a Roman Catholic in the strictest sense of the word, has just given a proof of his earnest and sincere Protestantism in his kingdom by raising a monument to a Protestant which is about to be erected to the memory of Martin Luther, at Worms.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, attended by Sir George Withers and Major-General, inspected the whole of the troops in the north and south camp at Aldershot on Monday. His Royal Highness returned to town in the evening.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL, in the case of the Knights-bridge Churches will probably not be elected until May next.

A STAINED WINDOW, in the choir, taken place in the parish church of Llangollen, to perpetuate the names of the crew of the *Point d'Ayr* lifeboat, who perished in the discharge of their duty on the 1st of January last.

A TRANSLATION OF MR. DICKENS'S WORKS is now in course of publication in Paris. It is the first uniform and complete translation that has been attempted in France; the translations have hitherto appeared being only of individual works, and for the most part by incompetent hands.

MR. HUNT, says the "Independent Review," a member of the sect of American spirit-rappers has been allowed within the last few days to display his skill before their Majesties at the Tuileries. Very curious results are spoken of.

THE GREAT HALL AND PICTURE GALLERY of the Marlborough Art Treasury have been opened last week to subscribers and holders of season tickets, for a promenade. Nearly 7,000 persons are said to have been present, including the Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of Lincoln, the Bishop of Manchester, and a great number of local notables.

A PAINTING, BY M. INGERS, representing a blind man carrying a pitcher on his head, has just been purchased by Count D'Artois for 25,000 francs.

AN INTERESTING MEETING has just taken place at Paris. The French Protestants, as clerical men, with the aid of a deacon, have come together to prepare a "national but severe remonstrance" to the Protestant slaveholders of America. The address, which has been most extensively signed, conjures the American Protestants to wipe out the remembrance of slavery.

A CROWD OF TOURISTS—English, French, Spanish, Indians, Algerians, and Portuguese—are residing in the south portion of St. Sebastien.

THAT JOHN SAUNDERS IS ALIVE is again asserted. A Tipperary man, a school-fellow of John Saunders, writes from Australia that he has seen the delinquent in Melbourne!

RADON KOLLER is appointed Austrian Minister at Berlin. He is replaced as plenipotentiary in the commission of the Danubian Principalities by M. Von Lichmann, privy councillor.

MR. CHARLES ALISON, Oriental secretary to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, has been appointed Secretary of Embassy to the same mission, in place of Lord Napier, lately named Minister to the United States.

THE WIDOW OF THE GREAT FRENCH BOTANIST, DE JESSÉ, has just died at Paris, at the advanced age of ninety. The Government for many years allowed her to occupy apartments in the Jardin des Plantes.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, having now gone into residence in London House, will preach at St. James's Church in the afternoon on the first and third Sundays in each month while he is in town.

A FORGED FRENCH BANK NOTE for 100*fr.*, executed entirely with the pen, was recently found in Paris. The time occupied by the person who had executed the note must have been worth infinitely more than the 100*fr.*, which it represents.

PRINCE ALBERT has appointed the 5th of May for his state visit to Manchester. On that day, therefore, the grand opening of the Exhibition will take place.

A COMMITTEE is to be appointed to report upon the duties for the Clyde and Aberdeen.

THE FAILURE OF A GREEK FIRM was reported on Saturday, with liabilities estimated at £70,000.

THE MARQUE DE LA ROCHEJAQUELIN, author of the famous memoirs on the civil war in La Vendée, which are not only a standard work in France, but have been translated into every language in Europe, has just died at an advanced age.

THE DOVER AND LONDON EXPRESS TRAIN ran off the line on Saturday morning. The passengers escaped with a few bruises.

A STATUE OF THE VIRGIN, which is to be erected at Rome in commemoration of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, is finished. During the casting of the statue, the priests chanted the litany to the Holy Virgin, and the workmen gave the responses. "Thanks to these excellent arrangements," says the *Ulmantane Volksfreund*, "the cast was perfect."

THE KING OF PERSIA, says the "Allgemeine Zeitung," has offered the titular colonelcy of the 25th line Regiment, no quarter to the Aix-la-Chapelle and Jülich, to the Emperor Napoleon; and that the King, in return, is to be named chief of a regiment of the Imperial Guard.

A WOMAN, the wife of a miller, in Liverpool, was found dead in her bed recently. She died from excessive drinking.

CHIMBORAZO WAS ASCENDED in November last by M. Jules Remy, a Frenchman, and Mr. Biechley, an Englishman. The ascent had been attempted only twice before. In the course of their dangerous journey the adventurers passed through a violent storm.

MR. WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN has been summoned to attend the grand jury of the county of Limerick at the ensuing assizes. This is the first time he has received a notification of the same character since his return.

A CROWDED PUBLIC MEETING OF THE WORKING-CLASSES, convened by the British Workmen's Association, was held on Monday at the Temperance Hall, Broadway, Westminster, for the purpose of urging upon the Legislature the necessity of providing free emigration for the working classes.

MR. MCGREGOR, it will be seen from our parliamentary report, has resigned his seat for Glasgow.

A PERFECT SPECIMEN OF THE PLESIOSAURUS has been discovered in the blue lias quarries of Street, Somerset. It measures seven feet nine inches in length.

THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT is preparing to send military reinforcements to their settlements in China.

FEARS ARE EXPRESSED lest the murrain, which has for some time past been ravaging the herds of central Europe, will ere long reach England. On the Continent every exertion is being made to arrest the progress of the infection, but it still progresses.

FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND, during the last five years, the Church of England has received grants amounting to £203,293 3*s.* 2*d.*; the Church of Scotland, £106,152 16*s.* 9*d.*; the Church of Rome, £131,910; Protestant Dissent, £202,213 19*s.* 1*d.*; making a grand total of £644,902 19*s.*

THE DIRECTORS OF THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, as a testimonial of their sense of the important assistance rendered by the Bey of Tunis to their ship *Candia* when lately forced into the Tunis Bay in distress, are about to present him with a superb barge, constructed on the lifeboat principle.

POISON, it has been recently pointed out, is often introduced into our homes on wall-paper. A Dr. Hinds had the walls of his study covered with a bright green paper. Two days after he was seized with nausea and abdominal pain, &c., which was explained when on scraping off some of the colouring matter from the paper, it was found to contain, or rather to be, arsenite of copper.

THE BRITISH VESSELS *NIMROD* AND *QUEEN OF THE EAST* have been totally wrecked at Sines. Letters received from Faro state that the schooner *Redoubt*, Captain Ross, with a cargo of sherry wine, from Cadiz for Liverpool, was dismasted and wrecked near that port during the gale of the 11th inst.; three sailors and a child being drowned.

CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION is spread over the Continent by a foolish rumor that a comet is to destroy the earth on the 13th of June. It is unnecessary to remark on the absurdity of this fear. "For a shock by the nucleus of a comet," says Arago, "which might destroy the earth, we have found one likely enough for 251 millions of unlikely chances."

THE VICTORIA CROSS is to be conferred upon twenty-five officers and men of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 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THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I FEAR that the talented gentleman who prepared that striking placard which on Monday was exhibited from the windows of the "Press" newspaper office, bearing the words, "Approaching Downfall of Faber's," must by this time feel himself in an ignominious position. The large majority by which Mr. Faber's motion was rejected on Monday evening shows that the country and its representatives are fully aware of the character of the attack and the motives which induced it. The mere resolution might have passed with the House; but the manner in which the opportunity was seized by Messrs. Disraeli and Gladstone for colouring fact and working them strategically, was too transparent, and it was clearly seen that the event was looked upon as a trial for party supremacy and political triumph. Mr. Gladstone's speech on the previous Friday was a masterpiece of eloquence and oratorical display. In his attack, which was not so much against the Budget as against the Minister who proposed it, he discharged fireworks of rhetoric; but his foundation was insufficient, and he lost his point. Well did Mr. J. G. Phillimore say that ten times Mr. Gladstone's ability, skill, confidence, and official experience would not, in the eyes of the country, atone for the obliquity of his political conduct; well did he sum him up as being regarded as a treacherous friend by one side of the House, an unsafe guide by the other, and a most unscrupulous partisan by the public generally. Meanwhile, the public, having got quit of the war in peace, will cheer and bear with the Palaceston administration until they require a further excitement and a further reduction of taxation.

The "Athenaeum" continues to wage war with the credulous upon the subject of "Human Longevity"—"a question," says the Paris "Constitutionnel," "qui est, en ce regard, vivement discutée en Angleterre." Your unfortunate contemporary has brought down upon himself a deluge of letters. Superhuman exertions, on the part of the *Old Parr* and Jenkins interest, have succeeded in raising up a centenarian from the dim and distant quarter of Dunfer, who is said to be 102; but unfortunately we are only informed upon one extremity of his career—his discoverers having contented themselves with proving that he was born, and omitted to show that he is still alive. He is, to be sure, a Government annuitant, a class proverbially slow to leave the warm precincts of the clerical days. But the world has heard of tricks being played off upon the Circumlocution Office in matters too trivial to deserve the attention of the others of that great institution. I am, I confess, suspicious of the important omission in the evidence so "politely furnished" by Sir Alexander Spearman. Another correspondent, "not unknown," says your contemporary, "in the literary world," and whose initials betray Mr. Dudley Costello, affords a good specimen of the care and caution of the believers. He desired your contemporary to take up "Lord's Baronetage," and examine the case of Sir C. V. Hudson, who, having been born in 1755, is now 102. Well, your contemporary takes up *Dod*, and the tough old Baronet is not there. Mr. Costello, like the other gentleman, had only troubled himself about one end of the story; the other end, like the end of the Irish gentleman's interminable rope, being, I suppose, cut off. It turns out, that he had used a stale edition of "Dods' Annual," and that Sir C. Villavence Hudson, upon whose venerable head Mr. Costello gravely invokes all earthly blessings, vanished from this earth at some period beyond the memory of the gentlemen of *Heralds' College* or *Doctors' Commons*.

The funeral of Mr. Charles Kerrison Sala took place on Monday at Kensal Green, and was attended by numerous professional friends. The deceased was the brother of Mr. George Augustus Sala, whose extraordinary photographs of London life have long been the staple attraction in "Household Words," and whose "Journey into North" is now being published in that periodical, and the aid of whose talents in a new line—namely, that of a novelist—I am gratified to learn, has been secured for the benefit of the readers of the "Illustrated Times." The cause of Mr. C. K. Sala's death was apoplexy, although at the post-mortem examination he was declared to have been labouring under disease of the heart. He was a clever man and an excellent companion, and, under the name of Wynne, had obtained much repute as an actor in burlesque and comedy at the Princess's Theatre.

A paper war has been waged between two literary men—Mr. Charles Reade, the well-known author of "Christie Johnstone," and "It is Never too Late to Mend," and a clever correspondent of the "Sunday Times," who writes under the signature of "A Brussels Sprout." The strife originated, it appears, in some strictures of the latter gentleman upon Mr. Reade, to which the assailed returned no reply. On a second attack, however, he replied in a letter which, though refused publication in the "Sunday Times," has appeared in the "London Journal." This letter is so absurd, so bombastic and egotistic in its tone, that, even supposing Mr. Reade to have the rights of the original argument in his favour, the opinion of the public would be turned against him.

I alluded in my last *feuilleton* to a party of three hundred, about to be given in Paris, by M. Millaud, the new proprietor of "La Presse." It went off with the greatest *défilé*, and among the guests were Messrs. Lamartine, Dupin, Grahier de Cassagnac, Théophile Gautier, Ponsard, Emile Augier, Amédée Achard, Paul Féval, and some other well known *littérateurs*. A story is current to the effect that some gentleman was so disgusted at receiving a printed invitation, that he immediately returned a printed reply, to the effect, that he was already engaged.

Among the deaths of the week is to be found the name of Mr. John Jackson, well known to the Irish press by his *soubriquet* of "Teddy O'Driscoll." Some years ago he was the Dublin correspondent of the "Morning Herald," and "Morning Chronicle," and in this capacity was examined as a witness in the O'Connell state trials in 1844. He was also a contributor to the "Dublin University Magazine," and his humorous letters to the "Dublin Warder" were each week eagerly looked forward to by the Milesian reading public.

Mr. Augustus Egg, A.R.A., has in preparation for the forthcoming Academy Exhibition, two pictures, the subjects of which are selected from Mr. Thackeray's novel of "Esmond."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE LYCEUM—THE OLYMPIC—THE ADELPHI—GOSSIP.

ON Monday night, after "A Life's Ransom," a new farce was produced at the Lyceum, called "My Friend from Leatherhead." The fun is of the broadest nature, and the farce, being full of practical incidents, went with one roar of laughter from beginning to end. It turns upon the adventures of a Mr. Loophole, a denizen of Leatherhead, who, having come to London on business, has been struck by the charms of a lady whom he has encountered in his walks, and has commenced systematically to hunt her. Coming home to dinner with an old schoolfellow, whom he has accidentally met, he discovers, to his horror, in the course of conversation, that his charmer is the wife of his friend, and is even then in the house. Moreover, the friend, Captain Squiffen, has heard of the annoyance his wife is subjected to, and is determined to bring matters to a crisis. He accordingly asks Loophole's advice, and, under it, writes a challenge which Loophole volunteers to deliver. He, however, recollects that he does not know the scoundrel's name, and on his departure to make inquiries, Loophole prepares to bolt, but is stopped by hearing Mrs. Squiffen's voice outside. He accordingly makes up a disguise with a sofa cover and a bonnet and shawl, and pretends to be the wife of Mrs. Squiffen's footman, who has been deserted. This brings upon him the wrath of Lemondrop (Miss Wilton), the lady's maid, to whom Shanks the footman (Mr. Holton) is engaged. Finally discovered by Mrs. Squiffen to be a man, by a glimpse which she catches at his tail, the wretched man tries to escape out of the window, but falls through the roof of the conservatory in the attempt. On being brought back he encounters the Captain, and explanation and forgiveness ensue. The farce, which was admirably acted by all concerned, but especially by Mr. Toole, who has now made his first decided stride in the public favour, was perfectly successful. It is the joint production of Messrs. Edmund Yates and H. Harrington.

Another version of "Une Femme qui deteste son Mari" (the Haymarket translation of which I noted last week) has been produced at the Olympic. Mr. Tom Taylor, who is the adapter, has Anglified the story, substituting the period of the Monmouth rebellion for the Robespierre epoch in the original. The piece, however, loses by the alteration; and Mr. Taylor, though scrupulously correct in his historical allusions, is dull and leaden

in his dialogue. The principal parts were well acted by Mr. Vining and Mrs. Stirling.

Mrs. Barney Williams has been playing in a "personation piece," called "In and out of Place," at the Adelphi, in the course of which she appears as an Irishman, a German, and a Yankee "Gal." Tuesday's personation is imitated by the others.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerley return immediately to Drury Lane.

A new piece, by Mr. Stirling Coyne, is announced for Monday at the Surrey Theatre; the same author has a piece underlined at the Lyceum.

Mr. Gye will open Drury Lane with the Royal Italian Opera Company on Easter Tuesday.

THE NEW SERIAL.

Paved with Gold. By the BROTHERS MAYHEW. Part I. London: Chapman and Hall.

THE paper-knife has a natural thirst for the leaves of new books, but for the leaves of the first number of a new serial it thirsts especially. Having once entered upon the investigation of an ordinary novel, you go through it with the calm self-possession of one whose path is all before him; you know that you have the story there, and can at any time skip to the actual crises and catastrophes. With the first number of a serial it is a different matter. Here you start in an unexplored country, and can have only the experiences of the day for your day's journey. Beyond the country immediately around you, all rests on the dim horizon of conjecture; and it remains with the author whether the journey shall be merely tedious and wearisome, or whether, with conjecture big, with anticipation all alive, we go merrily from stage to stage, with all the enthusiasm of personal adventure.

Therefore are we above all anxious to get at the first number of a serial novel—to break ground, as it were. In the case of "Paved with Gold," a new work, of which the Brothers Mayhew are the authors, we have hardly succeeded in breaking ground. The first part is little more than a prologue. It merely introduces and disposes of the mother of the plot—that is to say, of the hero; of whom, except that he was born in jail, that his mother was a poor, proud, castaway gentlewoman, who had lost all for love and a linguist, we know nothing, and can form no conception. This, however, is only one part of the case. If the prospect afforded by this first part is narrow, it is at the same time very pleasant. The style is popular, the descriptions are all vivid and life-like, and the whole part is very promising. Without going any further into a criticism of this first instalment of the story, we will give one of several exceedingly clever pictures of "still life"—

LONDON IN THE SNOW.

"There is hardly a more startling sight than to wake up and find the town, which yesterday was black with its winter coat of soot and dirt, suddenly changed to a city of almost silver beauty, seeming as if it were once more a city of the Polar regions, glittering with its gleaming architecture, and bristling with its monuments, pinnacles, and towers. In so many pauses and temples hewn out of ice.

"Every house top seems to be newly thatched with the virgin flocks, and every cornice striped as if with a trimming of the fairest down. All the windows are white as a tent-top, and the railings look as if made out of pith, rather than iron-work; every window-wall, and indeed, the least bridge on which the foam powder can lie, is thick and bulging with its layer of alabaster-like particles. O. each door-step is spread the whitest possible mat, and a chestnut-blossom is crowned with a nighcap of the purest fleece, while the huge coloured lamps over the elm-stems' seem gaudier than ever, and their blue and red and eyes look like huge gas-jets set massively and lumps of frosted silver.

"The various signs over the tradesmen's shops are nearly blotted out by the drift that has clung to them. The monster golden rosette above the shop-keeper's is shivered over on the side next the wind; the 'little distaffs' are filled with a pile of white fluff; the golden bells, hanging over the baker's shop, seem to have changed its metal for one of the purest wool; a three-bells at the brewer's appear to have been converted into a bird's nest, or a bird's nest; and the great carved lions and unicorns between the first and second of the royal tradesmen, have huge dais of snow resting on their necks, like thick, white, matted manes.

"The statues throughout the metropolis have lost all artistic modelling in their form. Some, however, are merely speckled with the flakes, and have from time to time a drapery of snow over them, like a plasterer's clothes. Sir Robert Peel, gazing down Chancery, looks as if some miller had rubbed violently up against him. Old Major Cartwright, seated in his arm-chair in Barton Crook, has at least a couple of pounds of snow resting on the top of his skull and dabbed over his face, and giving him the appearance of having been newly battered previous to being his head and cheeks shaved. The periwig of George III. at Charing Cross, has turned white in a night, like the hair of Marie Antoinette. The mounted effigy of F.M. the Duke of Wellington, at Hyde Park Corner, continues, despite a spade of snow at the nape of his neck, to point with its lion— which is now white as a swan—die-najestically in the direction of the White House Cellar, his patent steel having his hind-quarters covered with so heavy a deposit that his Grace seems to be sitting, like a life-guardsmen, on a mat of bleached sheepskin.

"The pert London sparrow seems almost to have disappeared with the frost, and the few that remain have a wretched, half-toppled look, and have gone all fluffy and turned to a mere brown ball of feathers. In the suburbs the robins are seen for the first time leaving little tread impressions on their feet on the garden snow, and their sweet voices sounding like Christmas carols against the white earth. Then, as the dusk of evening sets in, and you see in the squares and crescents the crimson flickering of the flames from the cosy sea-coal fire in the parlours, lighting up the windows like flashes of steel in the dark, the cold, cheerless aspect of the streets without sets you thinking of the exquisite comfort of our English homes."

The observation and humour exhibited in the above description are the very salt and savour of works of this kind; and where they exist so largely we have little to desire and everything to hope.

A PLEA FOR THE NEW TIMES.

A REPLY TO B.

(From a Correspondent.)

As I sit in the low-ceiling'd "Cock," and the waiter Goes to fetch me a bottle of Tennyson's port, Let me answer that *temperis aeli laudator* Who treats of our failings in rhythymal sport. Our comfort and science he fancies some sin in; He hardly approves of the telegraph wires; Would prefer a mail shirt to our modern clean linen, And would light all the hills with their old beacon-fires.

Our business it is to exist in the present, Not with indolent eyes on the past to look back: All ages have something to show that's unpleasant— There is, and there always was, "time in the sack." But that men were more honest, or summer skies bluer, In those days, are notions friend "B." should discard. Were the doughty old Douglas tenderer or truer Than Raglan the hero, or Ellesmere the hard?

Our girls know too much. A young lady's a goddess, Void of "music and Latin," and that sort of stuff; For petticoat red and pre

STATUE OF FIELD-MARSHAL YORK. AT BERLIN.

THERE has lately been erected in the Prussian capital a statue of a personage in whom our readers, we believe, will feel some interest, inasmuch as this old soldier, as his name implies, was of English extraction. He distinguished himself in the wars against Napoleon; and when his Prussian fatherland had become an ally of Russia, contended notwithstanding with the utmost vigour against the overweening influence of this Power, who then began to spread her meshes over Germany. There was not, at that time, another man on the Continent, who so unflinchingly exposed the arrogance of Russia, who, after the fatal destruction of the French army by the severities of a Muscovite winter, passed the Prussian frontiers as a liberator, but could not maintain its pretensions as such, with more than a corps of 7,000 men!

The Prussian family of York have preserved as their arms the blue cross of St. Andrew, which is likewise borne by their English relative, the Earl of Hardwicke. They suppose their ancestors to have expatriated themselves at the period when many noble Catholic families left England after the downfall of the Stuarts. Together with the Leslies they went to Sweden, settled finally in Pomerania, and became Protestants on account of some marriage contract. If personal character be a true characteristic of nationality, we may say, that Field-Marshal York did not degenerate from his British ancestors. Even when a youth, and nothing but a poor lieutenant in the service of Frederick the Great, he did not tremble on going to parade before the king. The reader must bear in mind that Prussian soldiers then preferred marching to battle to going through the dreaded ordeal of appearing before their time-worn, grumbling, martial Sovereign. The commander of Ensign York's Brigade, General von Luck, on such occasions never finished his preparatory admonitions to his officers without first adding, "God, who blesteth both the beginning and the end, will make everything turn out for the best."

After having witnessed the Bavarian war of succession, in which the decayed King, as says the proverb, made his soldiers earn hay instead of laurels, York was cashiered for calling a thief by his right name—the delinquent happening to be his own captain. York went to Holland, fought in the colonies, and returned to Berlin as an attaché to the Dutch Ambassador. He made several efforts to be once more reinstated in the Prussian army, but in vain. "My army is no dove-cot," was the laconic answer of the great Frederick. However, his successor was of a different opinion, and re-appointed the man whose many excellencies had already made him renowned.

On the death of Frederick the Great, his successor established something like a court of Versailles; and the second successor of Prussia's greatest monarch was

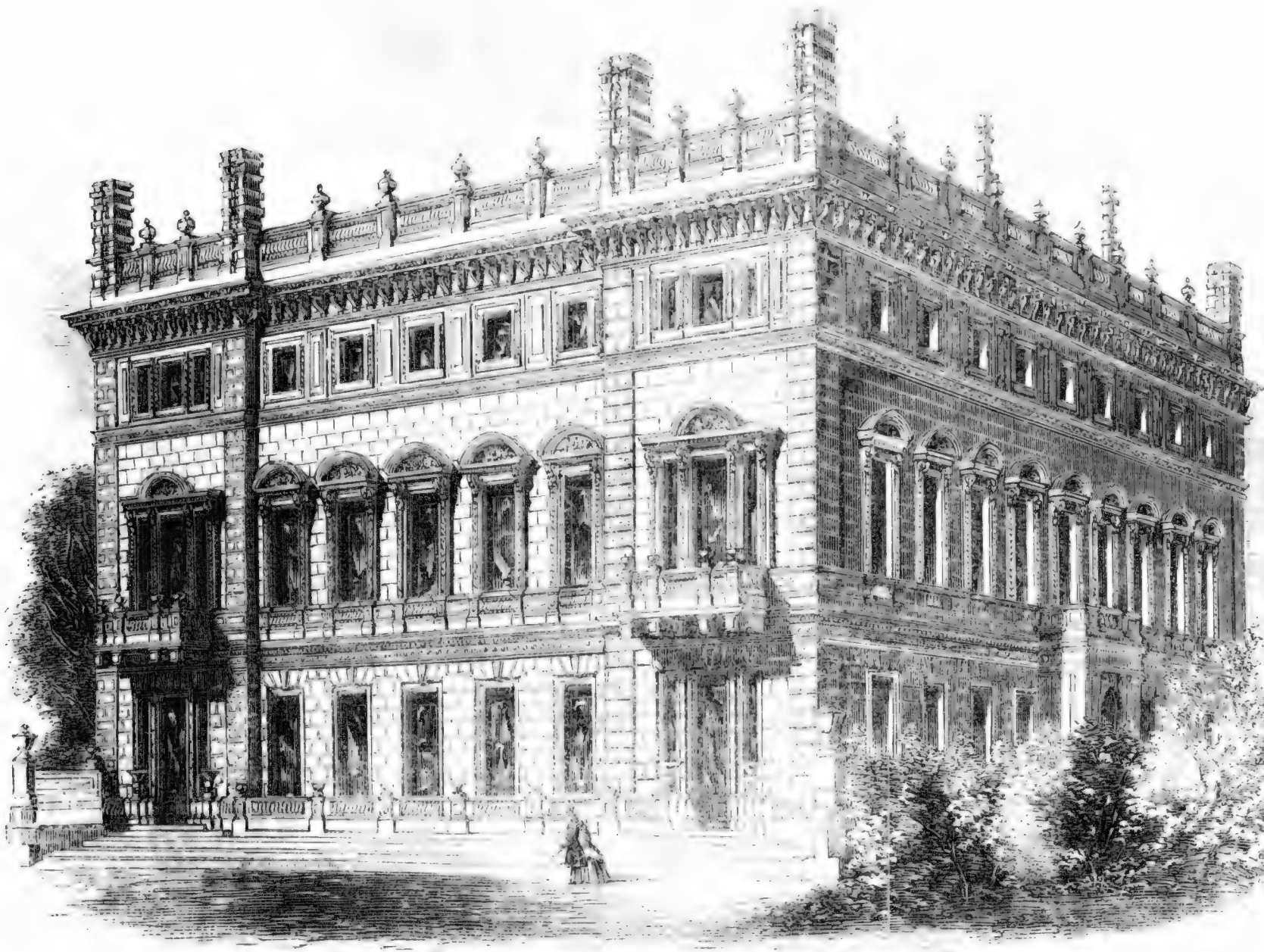


STATUE OF FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT YORK VON WARTENBERG, AT BERLIN.

the timid, young, shy, homely Frederick-William III, who, too inexperienced to enact necessary reforms, stood opposed to the growing demands of the epoch. One example will suffice to demonstrate the state of things at the beginning of the present century. The new French system of warfare had perfectly rearranged the whole plan of military tactics. Orders were issued to establish a different course of drill, urging, among numerous other novelties, that every attack in future should be executed at the rate of 100 paces within a minute, instead of the ancient dignified mode of 71 paces in the same space of time. The majority of the generals, however, declared that Prussia would be lost; and as the King was neither strong enough to incur such a terrible risk nor sufficiently weak to recall his orders, every general had his own way, according to his liking, whim, or fancy. Thus the reformatory orders of the young King loosened in every department the iron ties which had bound men to the old state, without in any way forming new sinews in a community, governed, as it was, exclusively by the fading traditions of a glory which had passed away.

The day of ruin came. Napoleon crushed Prussia for six years; and, in 1812, degraded her so far as to exact her co-operation against Russia. According to Napoleon's demand, the Prussian corps of the "Grande Armée" was given to a Count Grawert, an enthusiastic admirer of the Emperor; York, at the humble request of his King, became the second in command. He was still the same York, who, when going to war in 1806, had addressed the officers of his rifle brigade in the following manner:—"Gentlemen, you are aware of my having been always vexed by the large tufts of feathers, with which, contrary to orders, you have thought fit to adorn your helmets. They certainly look very elegant, but being of white colour, seem rather dangerous to the wearer when in battle. However, as you have adopted them in time of peace, you would deny the necessity of keeping them in time of war." And then, in the face of the stupefied audience, he fastened an enormous tuft on his own helmet.

It was York, who, when the French had to retire from Russia, refused at his own risk to obey the orders of Marshal Macdonald. The King of Prussia, though he had before hinted at such an event being possible, did not yet think the moment come to sanction the patriotic, but wilful conduct of his General. Every one at present knows the indecision of Prussian diplomats. Prussia is, and has been, these last eighty years, a state not sufficiently powerful to sustain the true claims of a "Great Power." Frederick-William III., even under the pressure of a growing popular enthusiasm, such as has not often been witnessed in history, condemned the patriotic General York, ordered him to be arrested by the next in command, and sent his apologies and regrets to Napoleon. But what did the next in command (General Kleist) say, when that order reached him? He had the men marched up,



ELLENWATER HOUSE, CREAM FARM, THE TOWN MANSION OF THE EARL OF ELLESMERE.

and shouted to them in a thundering voice, "That he would rather cut his throat than execute such a commission." "Hurrahs" to York and Kleist echoed up and down the lines. Within a year of the date of his "flagrant violation of discipline," York had won several battles, was celebrated as a great man, and made illustrious as a count, whilst sojourning at Paris with his grateful and re-established King.

DEATH OF THE EARL OF ELLESMERE.

AMONG the English noblemen of that generation which is now beginning to pass away, few have enjoyed a larger measure of popularity than the Earl of Ellesmere. With real regret, therefore, the public learned towards the close of last week, that the Noble Earl had breathed his last at Bridgewater House, the mansion so intimately associated in the minds of many with his artistic taste and graceful hospitality. He was not one of those mere ordinary peers, whose death it hardly worth while to "descend from the dignity of doing nothing to the office of thinking and acting for the benefit of their fellow creatures." Having a high sense of duty to his order, and being wise in his generation, Lord Ellesmere strove to conciliate the men of the age in which he lived. He took comparatively liberal views of politics; carried through the House of Commons a motion for the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood in Ireland; strenuously advocated the policy of Free Trade, twenty years before the "unadorned eloquence" of Mr. Cobden converted Protectionist cabinets and prime ministers; cultivated the society of the intellectual, and exercised over authors, artists, and men of science that kind of fascination, which reconciles struggling genius to a class that enjoys the wealth and assumes the privileges, without performing the duties or incurring the responsibilities, of an aristocracy. It is not surprising, all things considered, that the death of this estimable Nobleman should be deeply regretted by a large circle beyond that of his immediate family.

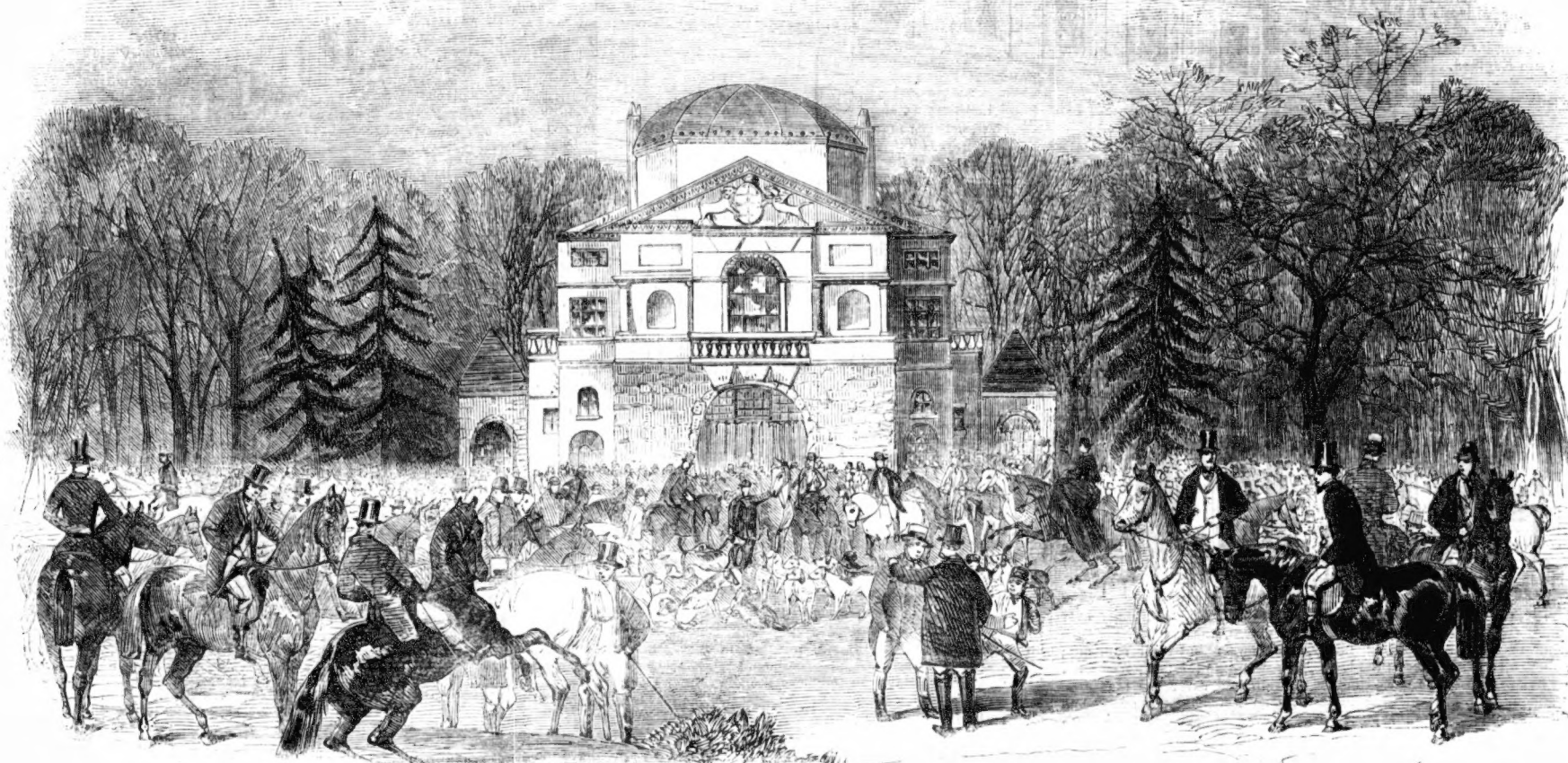
The Earl of Ellesmere was a member of one of the wealthiest and most influential families among our aristocracy, being second son of the first Duke of Sutherland, head of the Gowers, who have made so rapid and extraordinary a transition from rustic obscurity to influence in palaces and power in parliaments. Born in Arlington Street on the 1st of January, 1800, Lord Francis Leveson-Gower (after having been educated at Eton and Oxford, where he took bachelor's honours, and published, for private circulation, a volume of poems), entered the House of Commons at

the age of twenty-two, as member for Bletchingley. In the year 1826, however, he was elected for the county of Sutherland, which he continued to represent till 1830; having meanwhile figured as a Lord of the Treasury, and held the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, during the Duke of Wellington's Administration. In July, 1830, he was appointed Secretary-at-War, which he only held a few months—up to the November following.

From 1830 until 1835, Lord Francis Gower had not a seat in Parliament. During that period, however, he acquired some reputation as a man of letters. At a very early age, he is said to have displayed a highly cultivated taste for literature and the fine arts, and long before he had risked the broad glare of publication, he had printed, for private circulation, poems which entitled him to an honourable place among the living poets of England. He first attracted attention in the world of letters by the publication, in two volumes, of a translation of "Faust," accompanied by free and spirited versions of popular lyrics selected from the works of Goethe, Schiller, Burger, Salis, and Körner. This work, which has been out of print many years, passed through several editions before the author decided on withholding it from further circulation. In the interim between its publication and the appearance of his "Mediterranean Sketches," several poems from his pen, of great merit, were printed for private circulation. In 1839 he was induced, partly by medical advice, to undertake a voyage to the Holy Land in his own yacht. His Lordship was enabled, after touching at Lisbon, to visit Cadiz, Gibraltar, and Malaga; from the former and latter of which he travelled inland to Seville and Grenada. After wintering at Rome, he set sail on the 11th of April, 1840, from Civita Vecchia for Malta, which he quitted on the 24th for Palestine. On his return home, he published an interesting account of his travels, in the form of notes to a very graceful poem, entitled the "Pilgrimage," in which, having adopted the staff and sandal shoon of the palmer, he gives a highly poetical picture of the various scenes comprehended in his tour. This volume, more than once reprinted, has also been withheld from general circulation for several years. Among the poems printed for private circulation which have from time to time fallen under our eye, are several dramatic pieces—"The Pariah," "Donna Charitea," "Blue Beard, a Parody," "The Siege of Vienna," "The 18th of November, a Monody on the Death of the Duke of Wellington."



THE LATE EARL OF ELLESMERE.—(FROM A DRAWING BY RICHMOND.)
(COPIED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. COLNAGHI.)



MEET OF THE BEAUFORT HOUNDS AT WORCESTER LODGE: WAITING FOR THE DUKE.

Meanwhile, Lord Francis had, on inheriting the large estates and canal property of the celebrated Duke of Bridgewater, assumed, in 1833, by royal sign-manual, the surname and arms of Egerton, in place of Leveson-Gower. As Lord F. Egerton, he, in 1835, again entered the House of Commons as member for South Lancashire, and at the meeting of Parliament, proposed Sir C. Manners Sutton for the chair of the House, when the latter was defeated by Lord Dunfermline (then the Right Hon. J. Abercromby). On the formation of Sir R. Peel's Government in August, 1841, Lord Francis Egerton was offered a seat in the Cabinet, but declined, from the conviction that his health would not allow him properly to discharge the duties of official life. He, however, on all occasions cordially supported the measures of Sir R. Peel, and was among those who supported that statesman in the repeal of the corn laws and other free trade measures. At the bringing forward the repeal of the corn laws, that measure of Sir R. Peel, he moved the Address in answer to the Royal Speech, which may be considered almost his last act in that branch of the Legislature. In the same year he was elevated to the Peerage, with the titles of Earl Ellesmere, county of Salop, and Viscount Brackley of Brackley, county of Northampton, in the peerage of the United Kingdom.

While Lord Ellesmere was in America, as representative of England at the New York Exhibition, a dramatic sketch from his pen, entitled "Blue Beard," was produced with success in some private theatricals. On his return he was made a Knight of the Garter. On the death of the late Earl of Sefton, Lord Ellesmere was appointed Lord-Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Lancashire. He was also Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Lancashire Hussars, a Vice-President of the Literary Fund Society, a Trustee of the National Gallery, a Councillor of King's College, London, Rector of King's College, Aberdeen, and a Deputy-Lieutenant of Sutherlandshire. His Lordship was elected as President of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1849; and he was President of the Oriental Translative Fund. Having married, in 1822, Harriet Catherine, daughter of the late Mr. and Lady Charlotte Greville, Lord Ellesmere leaves issue four sons and two daughters—namely, Francis Charles Granville, Viscount Brackley; Captain the Hon. Francis Egerton, R.N.; the Hon. Algernon Egerton; Captain the Hon. Arthur Egerton, Scots Fusilier Guards; Lady Alice, married to the Hon. George Byng, M.P.; and Lady Blanche Leveson-Gower.

It will be remembered that, shortly after arriving in town from Worsley Hall, in November last, the Earl of Ellesmere was seized with a dangerous illness, and for some time remained in so critical a condition that he was given over by the most eminent members of the faculty. Contrary to all expectation, he rallied, and hopes were for some time entertained that he would ultimately recover. Unhappily, within a short period, symptoms recurred which rendered permanent recovery utterly hopeless, and for some weeks past he had been gradually sinking. On the 18th, at an early hour, the members of his family were summoned; and shortly after noon his Lordship expired, surrounded by nearly the whole of the circle.

On Tuesday the remains of Lord Ellesmere were removed from Bridgewater House to the Euston Square Station, for the purpose of being conveyed to Worsley Hall, Lancashire, and consigned to the family vault.

BRIDGEWATER HOUSE.

When London has just lost the familiar presence of the Earl of Ellesmere, whose munificence as a patron of art, and a friend of literature, has been so long recognised, the mansion associated in the minds of so many with his fine taste and genuine hospitality, and within the walls of which, this amiable nobleman drew his last breath, naturally becomes an object of some interest. Bridgewater House, as remarked, has been so completely established as a rendezvous for all the talents—its noble galleries have been so entirely identified with the courtly and retiring figure of its late owner—that people can scarcely think of the edifice he made so beautiful by his benignant manners apart from him, its chief attraction.

Bridgewater House fronts the Green Park, and was built in 1847 by Lord Ellesmere, from the designs of Sir C. Barry. The house stands on the site of what was once Berkshire House, which was built about the year 1630, and was for a time the residence of those Howards who figured as Earls of Berkshire. The aristocratic mansion having been purchased by the Duchess of Cleveland (the notorious mistress of Charles the Second), took her name. Subsequently, however, it became the property of the Duke of Bridgewater, when it was altered, refaced, and called Bridgewater House.

The new mansion, designed by Sir Charles Barry, is almost a square, and the elevations and details are mainly from palaces in Rome and Venice. The chimney shafts form architectural features. The main cornice is richly carved with flowers, and the second floor string-course—a folded ribbon—is very picturesque. The fenestration is very characteristic—the principal windows having arched pediments, each filled with arabesque foliage, and a shield, with the monogram of E. E. entwined *doss-dos*. In the panel beneath is the Bridgewater motto, "Sic donec." The first floor window dressings have elegant festoons of fruit and foliage; and the balustrade is surmounted with sculpture. The entrance porch on the south is inscribed "Restauratum, 1849;" and over the keystone of the arched doorway appears a lion rampant, the Earl of Ellesmere's crest.

On the north side of Bridgewater House, rising to the height of two floors, is the picture gallery, 110 feet long, and lighted by glazed panels in the coved ceiling. The famous collection of pictures contained in this room was formed by the Duke of Bridgewater, chiefly from the gallery of the Duke of Orleans, the notorious Philippe Egalité. It was then known as "The Bridgewater Collection;" but having been left by the Duke to his nephew, the Marquis of Stafford, it was frequently called "The Stafford Gallery." The collection was much enlarged by the Earl of Ellesmere, after it came into his possession, and is now considered the finest private gallery in England.

MEET OF THE BEAUFORT HOUNDS AT WORCESTER LODGE.

OUR engraving represents a meet of the far-famed hounds of the Duke of Beaufort, on the green sward of the park at Badminton, so widely celebrated as the historic home of the family of Somerset. The spectacle is such as can hardly fail to interest every real lover of our old English field sports. Everything wears a favourable aspect. The weather is charming, and the beams of the sun glisten on the ivy and holly, and, straying through the trees, brighten the turf beneath. A keen breeze rises and falls in gusts, and roars in its own music through the woods. A large number of persons, mounted and on foot, are assembled, and a sprinkling of red coats lends colour and animation to the scene, which is full of picturesque incidents—horses are galloping to and fro, carriages are driven past, and the stream of pedestrians is in constant motion, while the Duke is eagerly watched and waited for. The meet is at Worcester Lodge, three miles from Badminton House, at the end of the grand avenue, where it opens into a wide circular glade, admirably adapted to exhibit the scenic effects of hunting.

The arrival of the pack having heightened the interest of the proceedings, dogs roll on the turf and squat on their haunches, watch the "whips" with the solemn, serious frowns upturned, ready to give a quick and willing response to the slightest indication of their will; and at length the Duke of Beaufort, who hunts the pack himself, having joined the field, the dogs are laid out, and taking the scent, challenge merrily, and go away in full cry. The horses follow, each stepping out on his single toe—a race without stakes and colours. Happy the horse with a large but lean head, on a strong neck, a straight windpipe, well-knit limbs, and "mare faced," for these are the best points of a hunter. Away the horses go, with ears pricked up, nostrils dilated—a broad nostril being the accompaniment of good wind in a horse, as it is the sign of intellect in man—bounding gracefully over the turf, rising and falling in a series of curves, the riders eager with growing excitement, whooping lustily, the horses hot and snorting; now they disappear through the hedge, now leap into the field, now sink into a hollow, now dash down the side of a hill, and cover the landscape with animation. Well might Addison write on a similar occasion—"The brightness of the weather, the cheerfulness of everything around me, including the hounds, with the hallooing of the sportsmen, lifted my spirits into a most lively pleasure."

LAW AND CRIME.

A PAIR of county magistrates received a pretty severe rebuke from Mr. Justice Crampton, on the 19th inst., at the Lancaster Assizes. This was, moreover, pointed by the verdict of an assenting special jury of gentlemen of their own county, and made still more impressive by its pecuniary results to both. The two worthies, it appeared, while administering their ideas of justice with respect to a tavern license, fell into a violent altercation, occasioned by one taunting the other with having drawn or "cut" (some old practice of lottery, we believe, managed with straws) to decide a question as to the value of land. Hereupon the offended magistrate gave his colleague a blow across the back with a steel walking-stick, which brought him instantly into an undignified position. In this column we are always careful to avoid quotation even of those bad and profane expressions which the habits of the lower orders constantly bring into connection with the second division of our subject. We cannot, therefore, give our readers any notion of the oaths and abuse which these two justices at once commenced interchanging upon the bench. Not even the lady who has the felicity to be matrimonially connected with one of them escaped without insult. The one who had been beaten brought an action against the other for damages. Mr. Justice Crampton said that he did not regret that the circumstances, having taken place, had been placed before the public. It was discreditable for gentlemen sitting on the bench of justice, and expected as magistrates to set a good example to others, to act as the parties in this case had done. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, damages forty shillings. The result of this will be, that each party will have to pay his own costs. The judge has done his duty, the jury theirs. The attorneys have now to complete theirs by sending in their respective bills; and it is to be hoped that their exertions in this respect will be as ably carried out and as satisfactory to all but the litigants, as the summing up and the verdict.

That indispensable and ordinarily hard-working class of people, the domestic servants, usually have something else to do than to read the daily papers. Otherwise they must have been much flattered by an extra-judicial observation which overflowed from the urn of wisdom and justice upon the bench at Lambeth a few days ago. Mr. Norton, while trying an unhappy clerk for embezzlement, remarked that it was "quite lamentable to find the growing evil of dishonesty among servants. From the most confidential to the most humble, all seemed to be going on wrong." Mr. Norton requires to be taught the old version with greater accuracy. The exception only proves the rule; it does not make it. Sally, the housemaid, and Mary, the cook, are not to be suspected and to receive bad characters because Robson and Redpath have been justly transported. One might as well say, in reference to certain cases of aristocratic conjugal cruelty and plebeian wife-beating, that there was now no such thing as marital affection, and that, from the highest to the lowest, the nuptial tie had got twisted into a knot.

The man Harrison, who lately tried an action against the Marquis of Bath, and who was defeated therein, under circumstances to which further allusion is at present unnecessary, has sued Mr. Knightley, M.P., in the Queen's Bench, upon a claim similar to that made upon the Marquis. The record having been set down, it was of course imperative upon the defendant to take advice upon evidence, to prepare his briefs, to deliver these with fees to counsel, and to keep all parties concerned in his behalf in attendance at the court. When the case was called, plaintiff had not instructed counsel. By this course he had avoided the expense which he had necessitated to his adversary. Mr. James stated that actions were pending in all directions, commenced by Harrison for the purpose of extorting money, a statement which was denied by the solicitor for the plaintiff. The public may judge which of these two assertions they will consider most worthy of credit. It is, however, a shameful and disgraceful state of the law which allows actions to be conducted, and defendants put to enormous expense, by proceedings so utterly void of good faith as these. Why was not the solicitor, being present, called on by the Court, as one of its officers, and under its control, to state why he had given notice of trial, not intending to proceed; or why he had not proceeded, if so intending? The only remedy for this scandal upon our laws is to render the attorney in similar cases amenable to the defendant for the costs, with the penalty, in case of failure of payment, of being struck off the roll and imprisoned. There are many schemes which the law regards as criminal, and punishes with unvarying severity, when applied to the attempt to extort money, and which are, nevertheless, far less dangerous, and frequently less successful, than the terrors of an action, well grounded or otherwise, by a penniless, disreputable plaintiff, assisted by such an attorney as will lend himself to conduct the case.

Mr. Rogers, the comedian, who lately presented 13s. 4d. (being his reward for a night's performance at Windsor) to the poor-box of a police-court, has filed his petition for protection in insolvency. This is a bad sequence to an act of generosity. If Mr. Rogers's salary has been inadequate, and the cause of his failure, as alleged, "insufficiency of earnings," it would have been better to pay the 13s. 4d. to his creditors than to present it to the poor.

The two following cases appear to have been tried before the Chairman of the Surrey Sessions on the same day. John Rees, aged twenty-eight, a linen-draper's shopman, was charged with having robbed his employer of a pair of fur cuffs and other goods to the value of £16. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four years' penal servitude. Two housebreakers, who had broken into a house, No. 2, Earl Street, Southwark, and carried away all they could lay their hands upon, down to wearing apparel, in all to the value of £40, and who were captured in another house into which they also had broken, were sentenced each to twelve months' imprisonment. Such are the curious results of the system under which our penal laws are administered. What can be the moral effect of punishment upon the mind of an offender when he knows that for all the chance of its being proportionate to his offence, according to any definite scale, the sentences might as well be raffled for by the culprits?

A soldier was walking through the Broadway, Westminster, on Sunday night last, between nine and ten o'clock, when a fellow struck him a violent blow in the eye. There was no provocation whatever for the outrage, beyond the fact, that the soldier wore a Crimean medal with four bars, in silver, and the attack was only intended to cover the movement of a confederate thief, who detached the ornament before the soldier could recover from the blow, and, finding himself instantly seized, threw it among the crowd of passengers and loiterers in that populous but not over-respectable thoroughfare. The chance was that it would fall into the hands of a fellow-thief, and this happened accordingly. The medal has not since been heard of. The decoration—to gain which the soldier had braved mutilation, disease, and death—was snatched from him in an instant, to be sold for half-a-crown or less to the melting-pot of some dirty Jew! Most of the practices of the criminal classes are conducted upon this principle of an infinitesimal amount of benefit to the thief, with an utter recklessness of the loss and suffering of the robbed. And yet these men have the insolence to talk at their meetings, in which phylanthropists bring them face to face with society, of the consideration due to their class as men, and of being hunted down and trampled upon!

A periodical entitled "The Literarium" lately published, in commenting upon an insolvency case, some severe strictures upon the management of a certain association called the Institute of Schoolmasters, charging the insolvent (formerly secretary of the institute) and another person with having obtained the patronage of noblemen and gentlemen by deception and specious advertisements. It appeared, that although the insolvent had been secretary as stated, and although he had for some time conducted the affairs of the association under the management of the other person, namely, a Mr. Coleman, that differences had arisen which had led to their separation, each one, for a time, carrying on the institute at different offices. When the secretary became insolvent, the institute, under Mr. Coleman's direction, continued at the office held by him, and he brought an action against the "Literarium" for the libel. Mr. Justice Willes, after hearing the evidence, observed upon "the right of the public press to advert to any matter of public interest in terms of fair criticism," and the jury returned a verdict for the defendant. The privilege thus judicially allowed to fair criticism upon matters of public interest, exactly comprehends the just liberty of the press; and this acknowledgment from the Bench of the true principle in such cases might tend to dispel much of the

unwarranted alarm which has recently been exhibited upon the subject by a few of our contemporaries.

The case of Bacon, of Walworth, who, originally charged with the murder of his children, is now called upon to answer the further accusation of having poisoned his mother, with a tolerable prospect of being also tried for causing the death of a father, exemplifies a phase by no means uncommon in the physiology of crime. It may be remembered that most of our more notorious criminals (Greeneacre, Rush, and Palmer, for instance) have committed, or have been reported to have committed, many capital offences besides those for which they suffered. Indeed, there seems to be a popular feeling, occasionally adumbrated upon, with respect to murderers who excite the public mind by unusual fiendishness, that their last victims have not been their only ones. The explanation of this is to be found in the cumulativeness which forms an indestructible attribute of crime. A man not previously hardened in guilt may possibly contrive to execute and conceal a murder with such care, prudence, and deliberation, that its discovery may be almost impossible. But when he has once regarded human life as a not insuperable obstacle to the advancement of his personal designs, he has certainly laid the train for his own destruction. Each succeeding crime will and must, from the nature of the human mind, require less incentive and induce less circumspection.

The promised "satisfactory explanation" from Mr. Humphrey Brown has failed miserably. Beyond reiterating the fact of his oath of secrecy as a director (of which we think we have heard before) and his mention of having paid to "a friend" £40,000 due from the bank, of which we had not heard before, there was nothing in his speeches which he might not have withheld without disadvantage. He appears, however, by the report, to have quoted, as the maxim of his life, the following lines, alleging them to be the production of a poet, an allegation proved to be absurd by the metre alone:—

"From honour and rank no position rise,
ACT WELL YOUR PART—there all the honour lies."

We think this about the most ludicrously bad and stupid couplet we have seen for some time.

A BURGLAR SHOT BY A CLERGYMAN.

THE residence of the Rev. J. Nodder, of Andover, near Chesterfield, stands alone in a secluded place, about half a mile from the village. On Saturday morning, between the hours of one and two, Mrs. Nodder, who slept in a room in front of the hall, heard an unusual noise. This she thought arose from her husband's room, which was situated in another part of the house. Presently she heard the noise again, and went to the window, when she saw the figure of a man outside, and close to the glass. Mrs. Nodder, catching up her baby, ran out of the room, shutting the door after her, and holding it to. Meanwhile the window was smashed, and two men entered the room. Mrs. Nodder now locked the door, leaving the burglars fastened in the room. They were provided, however, with a small crowbar, and with this instrument they broke the panels of the door, unlocked it, and got into the passage communicating with the bedrooms. The first room they entered was that occupied by a niece to the Reverend Gentleman, who (the lady) was so alarmed that she jumped out into the yard, a depth of fourteen feet, and in partial nudity ran for half a mile into the village, to the rectory house. After escaping from her room, Mrs. Nodder went into that occupied by her husband, and aroused him. Mr. Nodder jumped out of bed at once, and armed himself with a pair of large pistols. The burglars outside the room called out, "Nox, ladies, nox, ladies, come on, they're here." Mr. Nodder shouted in reply, "If you enter, I'll shoot you." The burglars look no heed, but prised the door open; and one of them, masked and disguised in a long gown, or frock, entered the room. He had a candle in his left hand, which he held low down. Mrs. Nodder cried to her husband to give them what they wanted. Mr. Nodder stepped a pace or two back, and said to the man, "I'll give you what you want,"—fired one of the pistols, and shot the fellow in the abdomen. The burglars now made a precipitate retreat, and as the man ran the shot fell from his clothes, the glass and framework with them. Mr. Nodder rang the alarm bell immediately, which brought about a dozen persons to the place, and a search was immediately instituted for the wounded man, as it was believed that from the shot, and the leap through the window, he could not escape from the neighbourhood. But though the footprints of the thieves were traced for a long distance, and several masks and other disguises were found, they got away for the time. On Monday night, however, the principal of the gang, the man who was shot, was arrested at Birmingham. The police had traced him to that town, and then made inquiries at the various druggists. At length they went to a woman whose business is that of a bleeder with leeches. From her they learned that a man suffering from a gunshot wound had applied to her, and had been bled in the abdomen. The house where this man lay was accordingly visited. He was found in bed, and suffering from severe wounds in the abdomen; he appeared in an exhausted condition. He was of course taken into custody. The whole of this shots had been extracted, and the prisoner was in a fair way of recovery. It appears he is a ticket-of-leave man, and goes by the name of "Shog." Miss Healey, the lady who jumped from the window to escape the burglars, lies in a precarious state. She is suffering from an injury to the spine, and from great nervous excitement.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A TAX COLLECTOR.—At the Birmingham Petty Sessions, Mr. J. Cope, recently collector of taxes at Darlaston, was charged with unlawfully obtaining money, on pretence that it was due for land-tax, from a number of persons in the parish of Darlaston. In 1852 or 1853, Mr. Cope became assessor to the parish of Darlaston, and had continued so until the present year. There had been many complaints as to the mode in which both the land and property tax had been collected in the parish of Darlaston by Mr. Cope. The first charge was that of receiving by fraud three shillings from a Mr. William Smith, which he had received, pretending that Smith was liable to pay that amount of land-tax, while on referring to the assessment book it was found that Smith's name was not there, and that he was never assessed to the land-tax, but was induced to pay the sum of three shillings through the false representation of Mr. Cope. There were various other charges, between seventy and eighty altogether. The prisoner was committed to the Assizes, but admitted to bail, himself in £1,000, and four sureties at £250 or two at £500 each.

ASSASSINATION AT PORTSMOUTH.—Another attempt at assassination has occurred at the convict prison, Portsmouth. A quarrel had arisen between two of the gang, when one of them immediately stabbed the other with his dinner knife. The blow was warded off by the convict who was attacked; but a fearful gash was inflicted on his arm. The assassin was immediately taken into custody. This is the eleventh desperate attack within fifteen months.

THE FRAUDS COMMITTED BY REDPATH on the Great Northern Railway, are now calculated to amount to £200,000.

POLICE.

IMPUDENCE EXTRAORDINARY.—Henry Moore, stated to be an old offender was charged at the Marylebone Police-court under the following circumstances:—The prosecutor, a footman to a gentleman living in Bionfield Terrace, Harrow Road, said:—At two o'clock on Friday afternoon, I went into a public-house in the New Road, and the prisoner and some other men were there. A man came in bringing with him some necktie pins, which he offered for sale, and pressed me to make a purchase. I told him I had no money, upon which prisoner offered to lend me some. I told him I did not want any, and the man with the pins then drew from his pocket some nuts and laid them down beside him. He then told me to pick up one, which I did, and prisoner then exclaimed, "You are a witness that I lent him a sovereign upon the throw, and he has lost it." He had not lent me a farthing. I got out of the place, and prisoner and two of his companions followed me. I felt hurried and asked them what they wanted, and they told me they wanted the sovereign. Afterwards the prisoner asked me whether I kept my money in a box, and he also wanted to know where my master kept his plate. I told him that was no business of his, when he threatened to knock my brains out. The party continued following me till I got home, and went in doors. I presently looked through the window, and seeing the men waiting outside, I got a sovereign and handed it to the prisoner, as I scarcely knew what was best to be done, there being only myself and my master, who is an invalid, in the house. A constable came up soon after I gave the money, and the prisoner was taken by him to the station.

Police Sergeant Potter said—I saw prisoner and prosecutor walking close together near Chapel Street, Edgware Road. Another man was behind. Prosecutor was much agitated. Knowing the prisoner and his companions to be members of the "swell mob," I kept watch at some distance, and saw prosecutor go into his master's residence. Prisoner was outside, close at hand, and two others went up to a corner and looked round, to see how matters were going on. I went up to the prisoner and asked him what he wanted with the servant, when he replied that he had lent him a sovereign, in order to assist him in making up money enough to purchase a horse, which he (prosecutor) had stated to him he was commissioned to buy for his master. I took prisoner with me to the house, and there saw prosecutor, who told me what occurred. I then took the prisoner into custody; he resisted violently, and seizing me by the throat, tore away my stock; assistance arrived, and the prisoner was, after considerable trouble, locked up. Upon his being searched at the station some flash notes, cards, &c., were found in his possession. Potter added that he had upon two former occasions seen the prisoner in custody. The prisoner was remanded.

tion, and every other necessary information to make success in this important art certain. The result of 50 years' practice. By JOHN LEVESQUE, late of the Anchor Brewery.
JOHN LEATH, 6, St. Paul's Churchyard,

